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# VENANGO COUNTY

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## PENNSYLVANIA

### HER PIONEERS AND PEOPLE

*Embracing a General History of the County*

- 1

PREPARED BY

CHARLES A. BABCOCK, A. M., LL. B.  
of Oil City, Pennsylvania

Member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science  
and of the British Astronomical Association in London; author  
of "Bird Day in the Schools and How to Prepare for  
It," "The Essence and Function of Super-  
vision," "Literature in the Schools,"

and

*A Genealogical and Biographical Record of  
Representative Families*

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TWO VOLUMES

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ILLUSTRATED

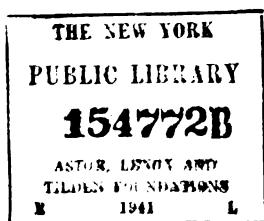
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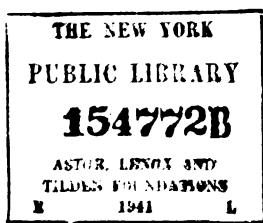
THE  
FIRST PIONEER  
LUMBERERS  
AND  
WARRIOR CO.  
OF RIVER A.

1

The First Pioneer Lumberers and Warriors Company of River A. was organized in 1858 at Franklin, N.Y., by a number of men from the Franklin, New York, section of the state, who made a contribution to the list of names of the successful lumbermen of the state of New York in the "Harbor and Mountain Valley" (1858) and in the sections of the Red Cross in Oil City and in Franklin, New York. A number of men entering the service from this State and from other States—Asell, Mr. Arthur Heile, Mr. J. N. LaRue, and many others, for members of various fraternal organizations in the county. Special thanks are due to Mr. M. Reed, of Oil City, for the account of the Oil City Old Exchange, and Mr. J. J. McLaurin, of Franklin, whose interesting "Thanksgiving Day" we have reprinted with the permission of the Oil City Press, which he was particularly generous, granting the use of Mr. McLaurin's history of the development of the oil industry prepared for an Industrial Number of the

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## PREFACE

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With the presentation of this work to its patrons, the publishers wish to make grateful acknowledgment of the encouragement and support that their enterprise has received from the people of Venango County, as well as of the cordial assistance rendered which has enabled them to surmount the many unforeseen difficulties to be met with in the production of a publication of this character.

The work has been divided into two parts, Historical and Biographical. The first part, comprising the general history of the county and of its townships and boroughs, has been prepared principally by Prof. Charles A. Babcock, of Oil City, who is particularly well known to the people of Venango County through his long service as superintendent of schools in that city, and whose familiarity with local affairs made his selection for this work most appropriate. The publishers were also fortunate in securing the co-operation of other local men possessing authoritative knowledge in their special fields. For the chapter on the Bench and Bar we are indebted to Mr. Millard Scheide, of Franklin; Dr. William A. Nicholson, of Franklin, contributed the chapter on The Medical Profession; the Rev. Dr. Martin Aigner, rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church of Franklin, wrote the chapter on Church History in Venango County.

Acknowledgment is due to the following people who helped obtain the names of Venango County soldiers: Gen. Willis J. Hulings, for the roster of the men from the county serving in the Spanish-American war; Mayor William Agnew of Oil City, for a list of the draftees and volunteers from the Oil City District entering the World war; Mr. Harry Lamberton, of Franklin, for the list of men from the Franklin District; Mr. J. B. Smithman, of Oil City, for contribution to the list of names and for his description of the plate illustrating the boats of oil in the "harbor" at Oil City in March, 1864; the Home Service Sections of the Red Cross in Oil City and in Franklin for the lists of Venango men entering the service from this State and from other States; Mr. J. N. Mark, Mr. Arthur Helle, Mr. I. N. LaRue, and many others, for information regarding fraternal organizations in the county. Special thanks are due to Maj. J. M. Reed, of Oil City, for the account of the Oil City Oil Exchange, and to Mr. J. J. McLaurin, of Franklin, whose interesting "Thanksgiving Tribute" we have reprinted with the permission of the Oil City *Derrick*, which has been particularly generous, granting the use of Mr. McLaurin's history of the development of the oil industry prepared for an Industrial Number of the *Derrick*. To Mrs. Emma W. Babcock, of Oil City, credit is due for the article on

## PREFACE

the schools of Oil City, for the account of the Salvation Army, and for the chapter on The Press.

The second part of the work is devoted to local genealogy and biography, the importance of preserving which has had growing recognition among individuals as well as historians throughout Pennsylvania in recent years. Local history, affording the best possible assistance in the preservation of national history, is well supplemented by these personal records, which contain items of historical value that might be otherwise lost irredeemably. Personal biographies possess special interest as one of the strongest means of linking the past with the present, and the record of Venango County's pioneers is so indissolubly linked with the activities of her present residents that lacking mention of them the work would be incomplete. Historical societies have done well in encouraging their publication and educating the public to an appreciation of their value in convenient form. Their worth thus becomes permanent. The utmost care has been taken to have these records accurate. In nearly every instance they were submitted to those immediately interested, thus affording ample opportunity for revision or correction.

Those who expect to find the work entirely free from errors or defects have little knowledge of the difficulties attending the preparation of a publication of this kind, and should indulgently bear in mind that "it is easier to be critical than to be correct." It is therefore trusted that these volumes will be received in that generous spirit which is gratified at conscientious effort. They are placed in the hands of the public with the belief that they will be found a valuable addition to the library, as well as an invaluable contribution to the historical and biographical literature of Pennsylvania.

THE PUBLISHERS.

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# History of Venango County, Pennsylvania

## CHAPTER I

### INDIANS—PIONEER HISTORY

THE INDIANS—INDIAN LANGUAGES—FRENCH CREEK—THE ALLEGHENY RIVER—THE FIVE GREAT NATIONS—MOUND BUILDERS—REMAINS OF INDIAN OCCUPATION AT FRANKLIN—FRANKLIN ENTERS HISTORY—LAND TITLES—SETTLEMENT—CORNPLANTER—CUSTALOGA'S TOWN—THE PIONEERS

**H**ISTORY, considered as the written account of a people or of a community, begins and ends nowhere. The source of any beginning must deal with a period in the shadows of an unknown past, into which the light slowly penetrates; but it surely will penetrate, and so push the beginning back; while the ending of any account is the beginning of a new record.

#### THE INDIANS

When the Europeans came to this country for the purpose of settlement, they found it occupied by people thought to be savages, and who were called Indians. We now know that at the time of these proposed settlements, this whole vast continent was apportioned among numerous tribes of aborigines, each occupying its own territory with varying densities of population. From northern Mexico and the Gulf coasts to the Arctic ocean, and from the Pacific to the Atlantic, the land was claimed by these primitive American natives.

#### INDIAN LANGUAGES

In 1891 the American Bureau of Ethnology published an epoch-making article embodying the researches of the experts of the Bureau. This paper, with its accompanying map, showed that when the Europeans began their settle-

ments, the entire area of North America was held by fifty-eight "language nations" of natives. A "nation," according to this classification, consists of a confederation of tribes using the same parent stock of language discernible through their differing idioms. The map showing the placing of the natives is as solid a mass of contrasting colors as is that of the United States today. A noticeable feature is the fact that the largest nations occupy not only one great area, but some of them have outlying states far removed and surrounded by tribes of different stock. Yet each of these states persisted for generations in the use of the same language stock as that of the distant parent nation.

Of the fifty-eight linguistic nations, more than one third had ample territories in the States of California or Oregon. These were found by the experts to be parts of the same great nation as others were, near the center, or in extreme eastern parts of the continent. This was demonstrated by reducing to written forms generations later the harsh and gutteral speech of their descendants. The work of John Eliot, the "missionary to the Indians of Massachusetts," has been of great assistance in changing spoken words to visible forms. As a part of his movement for the conversion of the Indians and the translation of the Scriptures into their language, he produced nearly forty volumes. He wrote for the great Algonquin

nation, perhaps the most widely distributed of any. The study given to the many dialects of this nation during the last century shows that Eliot was one of the great philologists of the world. He described correctly the grammatical correspondences through the many variations of dialect and vocabulary, and revealed the ties which bound many tribes into one great unit. The accuracy of his work of two hundred and fifty years ago becomes in these later years the guaranty of the soundness of investigations now covering the continent.

In addition to the great nations, with their detached and distinct provinces, there were a number of small ones containing only one tribe. The area held by each is small and is shown on the map by a little drop of color. These appear in California, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and southward toward Texas. Every colored dot locating a little nation is surrounded by marks of different hues, like diminutive islands in great seas. The study of these small communities has a peculiar significance. It shows not only their own progress, but also much of the character and conditions of the great nations. They are generally known as the Pueblo Indians. The astonishing feature of the few that have been intensively studied is that each has lived its entire national life in one little locality. Several have persisted to the present time, bringing their centuries of history with them, which are now being used by the ethnologists. From recent researches we know that a number of them lived in their earliest times in the river valleys of Arizona and New Mexico, where they developed a fine system of agriculture by means of irrigation. Many of their reservoirs and ditches are still traceable. From these early homes they were driven by the incursions of the more savage and larger tribes to the recesses and caves in the canyon vales near by. Here they lived for many generations; how long has not yet been determined. As the clouds of war lessened they moved out upon the mesas or highlands. Here they could see the enemy from afar. Here they cultivated their small allotments of land so long that the stone steps and walks leading up from the river valleys were worn into deep paths by the feet of the women carrying water upon their heads for the real "war gardens." Here they were visited by the Spaniards in 1539. Many of their stone dwellings in the cliffs were then in ruins, and were thought to be hundreds of years old. Their approaches were worn away by the elements so that some of them could not be entered; while the ancient buildings in the

valleys were prehistoric heaps of dust and stones. In later times, numbers of them moved from the mesas back to the valleys and again rebuilt their pueblos near the old homes of their race.

In some of their oldest ruins specimens of pottery are found, and are now preserved in the national museum at Washington, which are said by experts to rival in form and color any from Egypt or Greece. These, and other fine art-forms from the oldest times and from the later periods, are not the work of a mythical race which left them and then passed on out of existence, as some do in the romances of the Mound Builders. They lived with their art history, progressively illustrated, ever about them, buried in their ruins and in the dust heaps of their caverns, and it is now being interpreted. They have also the cumulative inheritances of the past in their muscles and nerve centers. Much of their work of the present equals that of the past. Some is thought to be even more excellent.

How much time elapsed while their national life made the round of changes from valley to cliff to mesa, back to valley? A very long period, fifty generations, at least, is the belief of careful investigators. But the larger nations, whose members met the early settlers, must have been active throughout this period and before it began; for they forced the changes.

The grouping of the aborigines into the "great nations" was based upon the similarities of their speech. The names of ordinary objects or qualities, the most primary action words with those of direction and extent were found in common use in tribes closely associated and in other groups widely removed. Though there might be variety—almost confusion of tongues, those having the common words could so vary them and re-combine them that they understood one another. The wonder is that these changes were real grammatical inflections. The law controlling them was common to all the idioms and was well understood. When Eliot first published it as applying to the Algonquin tribes, he was doubted by the English scholars who thought it a dream from the glowing soul of the teacher, that "savages" with no written language could attain such accurate speech. But the same rule was found to prevail, elsewhere by the Spanish, the French, the English, the Dutch, the Swedish, the Germans, and others who as missionaries or traders, had penetrated to many parts of the country, among peoples using different language forms, but subject to the same



law of change. Many reports of it were sent to the home governments, showing its prevalence. It is now accepted by all students of our native tongues.

The language of each of the great nations became a powerful but delicate instrument for the expression of wide ranges of thought and emotion. They all produced great orators, word painters of their hopes. Such power and accuracy of speech require centuries of growth. Their life here goes far back. Take its length as a time measure. Apply it to the past of Europe. It would reach to a period when the home countries of many of the early settlers held hordes of barbarians not touched by the old civilizations, or uplifted by the Morning Star. At present leaders of the natives desire to cease being "wards of the nation" and to become citizens, to emigrate to the United States of America. This is good. Perhaps John Eliot may yet be satisfied.

#### FRENCH CREEK—THE ALLEGHENY RIVER

Long before the white man had visited this country there was a settlement at Franklin. Its population may have been few and chiefly transient, and yet it was of great significance to the country round it. Here the natural lines of travel meet. It is the confluence of the Rivière aux Boeufs with La Belle Rivière or the O-heeyo as the Indians called the Allegheny, meaning the beautiful river. Down the first stream can come the people who cultivate the level lands south of Lake Erie, from its headwaters in Pennsylvania and in New York. There are also dwellers in the valleys of Sugar creek, Mill creek, Deer creek, Conneaut inlet, and on the broad meadows near Meadville and beyond, who are apt to use this crooked scenic little stream, to and from the river, to fish, to hunt, to exchange their corn, beans and tobacco for game or furs, or to talk politics. One of the aboriginal names of French creek was Zynango or tobacco, indicating that this solace was abundant there. This name is justified by a recent incident. On the Heydrick farm near Custaloga's Town a ditch was dug for a mill race. Upon the dirt thrown out strange plants appeared, which were found to be tobacco, an inferior sort with narrow hairy leaves, but the real rank thing, Nicotiana Rustica. The seeds had been buried too deep to grow but deep enough to preserve them. Later the lone fly-fisherman has found this wild tobacco along the hot sands of Rivière aux Boeufs, and with it a cousin, the small husk tomato, both of no man's care, yet living to-

gether in this valley. The soil and climate were kind to these outcasts.

Both above and below "the point" are a dozen native villages upon the Allegheny, with-in a day's voyage. The streams are full, clear and sparkling, alive with fish, mussels along the shoals, every little tributary a trout stream, with old big ones under the fallen tree trunks and tops, for cunning Indian fingers. In the spring the river banks are a symphony of soft greens, with brilliant passages of flaming flowers, all turning to a riot of reds, yellows and browns in the fall. Then the bank is a great bouquet, reaching from its reflection in the still water round the resting canoe to the blue vault above. There are no such scenes in the Old World.

In the forests are all game from deer to squirrels, from wild turkey to ruffed grouse. There are furs to take from beaver, otter, muskrat, bear, wolf and panther. To get enough of these for his family and a surplus to exchange for the dried succotash, squash and tobacco from the fertile meadows of the nearby valley, or the finer flint knives and arrow points from the west, or the great buffalo skins from the plains for winter, or to supply any of his needs, the red man floats his noiseless craft along the streams first to his game, then to his market. In this, his instinct is as natural and unerring as the way of the squirrel through the woods to the chestnut or hickory. At "Weningo" he may make his exchanges or learn where to make them. Or in company with others he may proceed up a stream or down to enter other waters, inlets, rivers, lakes, to any part of half a continent. Parties of trading hunters were absent from home for months or sometimes even for years.

#### THE FIVE GREAT NATIONS

Consider the surroundings at this period. To the north and east were the five great tribes, the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk, each near the river or lake of the same name. Their dwelling place, or land which they occupied, included more than one half of the State of New York. This they named their "Long House." It was a stupendous structure of cooperative psychology, and is a vivid example of the creative imagination of these "savages." Its roof was the sky above. Its hundreds of miles of surrounding "walls" were pure atmosphere, reinforced and made visible by their lines of warriors. Its eastern "gate" opened upon the Hudson, its western gate upon the Niagara. All

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its "gates" and "walls" were guarded by the "castles" or villages of the different tribes. This confederation is known as the "five great nations" of the early settlers. Bancroft says of them: "The most wonderful proof of the aptitude of the red men for civil organization is found in the perfection to which they carried the federal form of government, excelling the Hellenic councils and leagues in permanency, central vigor, and the singleness of a free union." They were proud of their territory as superior to any other part of the country. The soil was exuberantly fertile. Inside their "Long House," not more than two or three miles apart, were the headwaters of mighty rivers leading out in all directions. Their situation made them the lords of the continent. They must have known their North America well, before they located their Long House, and formed their League of Peace, as they called it. They were great travelers, and could find their way to the most unexpected places. By means of the rivers and lakes whose outlets and affluents they connected by "carrying" through forest and plain, they guided the earliest missionaries and adventurers to any point east of the Mississippi and even two thousand miles up the Missouri, two hundred years before the wilderness of New York and Pennsylvania had been explored.

But their greatest attainment is probably their highly developed language. Of all the great confederacies, they possessed relatively the largest number of notable orators, masters of speech. Of this language Father Bébeuf said in 1636: "The variety of compounds is very great; it is the key to the secret of their language. They have as many genders as ourselves; as many numbers as the Greeks." Prof. Max Müller wrote: "To my mind the structure of such a language is quite significant evidence that those who worked out such a work of art were powerful reasoners and accurate classifiers." Mr. Horatio Hale, the eminent Canadian philologist, said: "A complete grammar of this speech, as full and minute as the best Sanscrit or Greek grammars, would probably equal and perhaps surpass those grammars in extent. The unconscious forces of memory and discrimination required to maintain this complicated machine and to preserve it constantly exact and in good working order, must be prodigious."

Dr. Beauchamp, the historian of the New York Iroquois, writes of their language: "Dual and plural numbers have proper prefixes in most cases. Local relations are shown by affixed particles. Adjectives may follow sub-

stantives, but more commonly coalesce. Pronouns exceed those in European languages, and verbs have three modes. The frequent differences in personal nouns are often due to the dropping of a pronoun or particle, or its addition."

This language was purely a spoken one. The natives knew no writing till after the white men came. The languages of the Indians are unique in the world's history. Of American aboriginal life, its finest flower of expression is the spoken word of the Iroquois. Languages comparable to the Greek or Sanscrit do not spring up like Jonah's gourd. Bancroft, who took fifty years to write and revise his history, speaks of their life as "continuing in our forests how many thousands of years, no one knows." Somewhere, these "savages" must have lived and thought and, above all, must have talked, for at least a hundred generations.

## MOUND BUILDERS

In quite recent times much has been written about the Mound Builders. They are a supposed prehistoric race which has vanished from earth, and therefore may be endowed with any degree of civilization that the purpose of the writer requires. For the culture of the imagination, they are almost as good as the sunken island of Atlantis, or the inhabitants of Mars. The experts of the United States Bureau have been studying intensively the life of our natives for the last forty years. Let us glance at a very few of their conclusions: All the mounds from central Ohio through New York to the Hudson and to the St. Lawrence are believed to be Iroquoian. The artifacts found in them are similar to those of the Iroquoians of historic times. The mounds and earthworks west of the Mississippi and north of Mexico contain only art-forms and implements, with very few exceptions, now found among our native tribes. There was much shifting of boundary lines in the far past.

Shell heaps have also been examined. These are very instructive. They are common along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. In New England are heaps covering thirty acres twelve to fifteen feet deep. In Alaska is one formation consisting of three distinct formations; lower one of shells only; next one containing shells and fish bones; while the top layer has greater quantities than the others, of animal bones split to get the marrow and of kitchen utensils of the historic period. Dr. Dall estimates that this heap required three thousand years for its formation. Along all the rivers flowing

toward the Gulf are deposits of mussel and snail shells mixed with kitchen refuse. These increase in thickness toward the south. One of them in Florida has been examined by Moore and Wyman, who estimate that the minimum time required for its formation is one thousand years. In these piles of rubbish are no buried civilizations. No lost arts have been dug out of the Mounds. The most complex "works" of the mound builders, one of them four square miles in extent and others still greater, are as trifles compared with the "Long House," home of a perfect federation, placed in the one spot where the waterways of an empire arise. The Indians themselves are the prehistoric race.

#### REMAINS OF INDIAN OCCUPATION AT FRANKLIN

Many years before the Rivière aux Boeufs is mentioned in history, there was an Indian town at its confluence with La Belle Rivière. This is proved beyond doubt by a considerable shell heap or kitchen midden at Franklin. Dr. J. R. Borland, in a former history of Venango County, thus describes it:

"At Franklin a very interesting deposit of prehistoric remains exists which extends along the west bank of the Allegheny from the mouth of French creek to a ravine a few rods above the old tollgate house. The deposit consists of broken pottery, broken bones of animals and birds, mussel shells, arrow heads, flint flakes, charred corncobs and charcoal from wood used in cooking, one pipe with a bird's head carved on it, wrought of soapstone, several flint knives, and many arrow heads, which from the abundance of flint flakes, must have been manufactured on the spot. The fragments found would indicate that there must have been two or more kinds of vessels used by them, one for cooking, something like our old fashioned dinner pots, with flaring tops. Another kind of closer texture and finer workmanship, were probably used for drinking cups and mess dishes. Some of these vessels show considerable skill in ornamentation, some bear indentations as though they had been molded in a basket. The deposit is on the second bottom or river bluff, some twelve or fifteen feet above high water, in a sandy loam and washed down by heavy rains. It embraces about an acre and lies from twelve to eighteen inches below the surface."

This is a typical kitchen midden with contents similar to scores of others that have been examined in widely separated parts of the country. The shells would vary according to the locality, and the kitchen utensils would

differ among the nations. The writer saw a good sized collection of articles like those found in this deposit, a number of years ago, which had been gathered near the mouths of creeks entering the Allegheny above Oil City. The collector scratched the surface of the ground, and in a few years the results were surprising. Such formations are better evidence of ancient occupancy than any tradition or even written history can be. Empty shells, split bones, pieces of pottery, flint knives and arrow heads, charred corncobs, charcoal and carved tobacco pipes, do not assemble themselves in extensive collections by any law of nature.

Dr. Borland estimates that this deposit indicates that Franklin was occupied at least five hundred years back of historical times. It is likely that during this period the "outlook" was prepared which is described by Rev. S. J. M. Eaton, the erudite and eloquent author of a late history of our county. He locates it upon the high bluff overlooking Franklin. "There was a pit, in form like an inverted cone or like the den of an ant lion. It was regularly formed, some eight feet in diameter and six to eight feet deep, lined with stones neatly laid and forming a symmetrical wall. These stones were brought from a distance and were quite uniform in size. The point could not have been better chosen for an outlook on the river or creek." This outlook with a few watchers posted in the forests, would readily detect the approach of an enemy from any direction. The place was an important strategic point. The elevated observatory means war. So do the quantities of flint flakes found, which indicate that the knives and arrow heads were made by the many preparing together, instead of the usual way of each hunter by himself. The broken pottery tells us that the place was the home of some who were here; though all our aborigines made pottery they did not carry it while hunting, or on the war path. War parties were frequent here. It was the center of tribes hostile to one another till they were subdued by the "six nations," as the League was called after the Tuscarora joined the "five." This League conquered the related Iroquoian Eries, or Cat tribe, and drove them to the hills of southern Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties, except a few which it adopted. It also reduced to subjection all the tribes of Pennsylvania. During this period of conquest Franklin was a frequent rendezvous of war parties, but was afterwards an Indian town in the Seneca country dressed in feathers for a century before the historian's quill touched her.

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This last century of prehistoric Franklin was a time of the coming of white settlers to America in great numbers. The world oversea was scarcely fit for a common man to live in and support a family. Europe had just finished a hundred years' war. Kings and Emperors arranged conflicts without the knowledge or consent of their subjects. Some rulers not having a war of their own lent their armies to their neighbors for a portion of the spoils. In this way, a dozen armies were sent out by one King, during his divine right of oversight of his small realm, not in his own quarrel, but to help his friends. He filled his treasury. This practice was so common that intervening countries which these troops must cross levied a tax upon them equal to that on "herds of driven cattle." Sometimes a thirtieth of the population was lost in a single war; but if territory was added and the treasure augmented the ruler became Great. Not only were the subject's bodily activities diverted, but his beliefs must run in grooves. He had no voice or vote in his life's arrangement. He could serve. He was a slave. Hence a tide of emigration flowed to America. Foremost in numbers were the English and the French. Not because their common people had less consideration than the others. They had more, and were therefore better able to get away. In France there was a popular assembly, a Third Estate, which, when it was called sat, and in conjunction with the nobility and the ecclesiastics, the First and Second Estates, took part in legislation. In three hundred and thirty-five years, it had been called ten times. But lately, since the opening of a new continent, its members had been encouraged by the monarch. In England the commons by various struggles had obtained the command of the public purse; and finally, in the Revolution of 1688, they decided and fixed the kingly succession.

Before the middle of the eighteenth century, there was a line of English colonies along the Atlantic coast from Northern Maine to Florida. Some of these consisted of people selected by leaders in the Old World to make settlements in the New. The members of such colonies were agreed in social and religious aims, and were exclusive for a time. People who differed from them moved West, or, sometimes, into eternity. Their essential personality appears as a compound of theology, conscience and backbone. But they built "school houses like Martello towers along the coast" in Lowell's phrase, and in later times were an important factor in the making of a nation. Virginia was naturally homogeneous. Others contained

diverse elements. But of all the colonies, that founded by William Penn contained the largest number of differing classes. All nations and creeds were alike welcome, and land was assigned to them for a small quit-rent, or sold at a low price. His charter from Charles II gave him in fee forty thousand square miles of land, in payment of a family debt. But Penn believed that the natives were the real owners and satisfied their claims first, before using or selling any real estate. He called the Indians together and made a famous treaty with them, which secured peace to the colonists for seventy-two years. Voltaire characterized this treaty by an immortal sentence: "This was the only treaty between these people and the Christians that was not ratified by an oath and was never broken." This settlement was new in the world's history. It excited the wonder of Europe. The colony, last of them all, soon became first in wealth and in population.

In the meantime the French missionaries and explorers had traversed the country in all directions, enduring incredible hardships, to secure the conversion of the Indians and to claim the territory for France. When colonization was seriously attempted it was conducted on a plan very different from that of the English. The colony was half-military and half-religious. They built garrisoned forts at every prominent point from Quebec to Florida. The feudal system on the plan of Paris was established. By this one of the nobility, who generally had nothing but his sword, or an adventurer who was elevated to the nobility for the purpose, was made the owner of the land, which he was obliged to give up when demanded by the settler on certain conditions. There were, however, restrictions and reservations of tenure. The scouts of the French had explored every waterway and fertile prairie to the Rocky mountains, and had they been accompanied by bands of determined settlers the results might have been different. But the plan, partly ecclesiastic and partly feudal, with no choice in either, did not attract them. Between Detroit and Louisiana, and westward, they left only a legacy of names, Joliet, Champlain, Marquette, La Salle, St. Clair, Celoron, St. Louis, Presque Isle and others. In 1749 France determined to fix the eastern boundary of her empire in America. She claimed the valley of the Mississippi, including the Ohio and Allegheny and their tributaries from their sources to the Gulf. Fortresses had been built upon some parts of the line, and if the whole were secured it would confine the English settlements to the Atlantic plain, be-

yond which they already extended. France appealed to the treaties of Reswick, d'Utrecht, and of Aix la Chapelle, as her authority. But the language of these was vague, and would equally justify a line a thousand miles west of the French proposal. An expedition was ordered by the Marquis De La Galissoniere, General of All New France. It was under the command of "Celoron, Chevalier of the Military Order of St. Louis," as he names himself in his Journal. He had in his detachment "a captain, eight subaltern officers, six cadets, an armorer, twenty men of men of the troops, one hundred and eighty Canadians, and about thirty savages." He had also munitions, merchandise, trinkets and liquids, as presents to win the natives, and strings and belts of wampum to leave as reminders of agreements he expected to make with them. He left La Chine June 15th. From Lake Erie he cleared the precipitous portage to Chautauqua Lake. While passing through this lake and its outlet, he learned that the natives, alarmed by his approach, were fleeing to the woods. He paused at the Conewago, held a council, and by the advice of his savages sent in advance a lieutenant with three Iroquois and three Abenakes carrying strings of wampum to persuade the natives to stay and hear the good news he was bringing them. He also sent, alone, Mr. DeJoncaire, the French-Iroquois half-breed, who was often in the Long House, spoke the Iroquois dialects fluently, and was as polished and keen as a Damascus blade. This plan of sending the envoys ahead he followed throughout the voyage. He entered the Ohio at noon, July 29. On the south bank, opposite the entrance "Kanaragon" (Conewango), he buried the first lead plate.

Celoron buried six plates in all, with dramatic ceremonies. They were alike, with blanks for the dates and names, stating when and where each was deposited. They were about one eighth of an inch thick, eleven inches long by seven and one half in breadth. They were inscribed as follows:

In the year 1749 of the reign of Louis XV, King of France, I, Celoron, Commander of the Detachment sent by the Marquis de la Galissoniere, Commanding General of New France, to establish tranquility in some of the villages of these cantons, we have buried this plate at the confluence of the Ohio and Kanaragon July 29, as a monument of the renewal of possession which we have taken of the said river of Ohio and of all those that therein empty; and of all the lands on both sides to the source of said river, as they were enjoyed, or should have been enjoyed, by the preceding Kings of France, and they are maintained by arms and by treaties, and especially by those of Reswick, d'Utrecht

and of Aix la Chapelle; we have also affixed in the same place to a tree the arms of the king, in testimony of which we have drawn up and signed the present Procès Verbal.

Done at the entrance of Belle Rivière July 19, 1749. All the officers have signed.

This done, he continued his march down the river, and visited four villages in the next four days, where the persuasive Mr. DeJoncaire had succeeded in gathering the natives. He depreated the presence of English traders, especially in some villages where a house was set aside for their visits. The English he said spoke lies about the French, who loved them. The English would harm them and drive them out. The country belonged to the French, who would soon expel the English. The chiefs replied with fair words. Everything was according to correct form, strings of wampum were exchanged, to mark important points discussed. In one village, probably Oil Creek for he passed one other before reaching River aux Boeufs, the Indian speaker asked that the English be allowed to remain till spring: "If thou makest the English retire who give us necessities and especially the smith who mends our guns and our hatchets, we would be exposed to die of hunger—of misery in the Belle Rivière." Celoron promised to tell their great father Onontio at Quebec, who would do what was best. "I confess," he says, "that this representation embarrassed me much." At all these meetings he distributed presents; he also mentions coup de lait (brandy) at one place, to drink the health of their father Onontio, and tobacco,—which possibly were likewise usual. On Aug. 3d, in the afternoon, he arrived at "the village of the Rivière aux Boeufs."

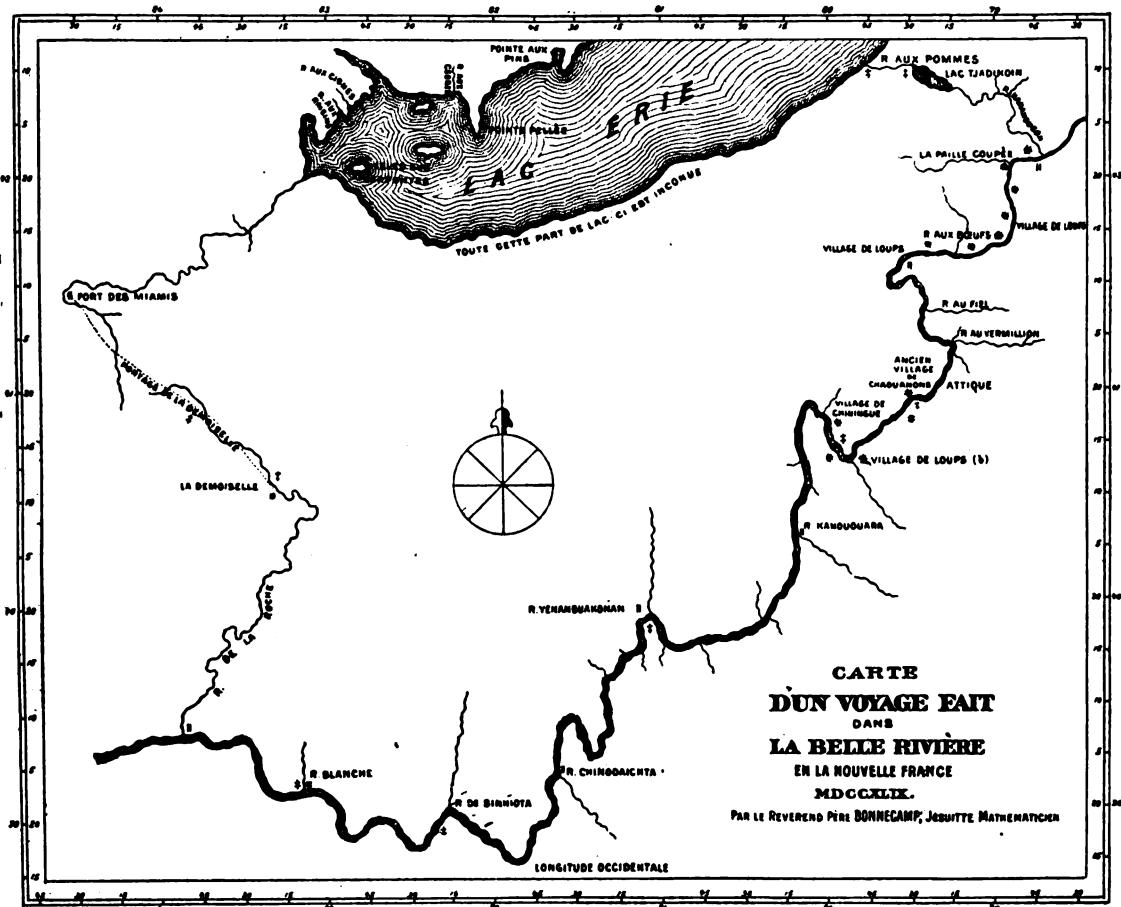
#### FRANKLIN ENTERS HISTORY

He saw only a few people on shore. He disembarked and asked for a smith and an English trader. "I wished to see them. I had been told they were there." But they had taken to the woods with most of the natives. Only "five or six Iroquois" remained. He spoke to them "nearly as I had spoken to the Loups, and immediately departed." Four leagues below he buried the second plate. The ceremony was spectacular. The picturesque company of two hundred and fifty men was marshalled in military array. The sunshine aslant through the stirring leaves touched the bright steel, the red and the white faces, the gay uniforms, and the green forest carpet with dancing spots of light. The mysterious movements of the mathematician in taking the latitude and longitude,

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the solemn burial of the plate of lead, the reading of the *Procès-Verbal* attached to the tree above the Fleur-de-Lis of France, the response of "all the officers" to their signatures, and the "Vive La France," "Vive Le Roi," echoing from the hills, all attested the grave import of the matter. This was "on the south bank of the river opposite a bald mountain and near a large stone on which are several figures rather

war. The bent bow and arrow are twice distinctly repeated. The arrow by itself is repeated several times, which denotes a date before the introduction of firearms. The animals captured, to which attention is called by the Indian pictographist, are not deer or common game, but objects of higher triumph. There are two large panthers or cougars variously depicted; the lower one in the inscription de-



roughly engraved." The "large stone" here referred to is known as "the God Rock." It is a priceless relic and should at once be removed to the county seat, its traceries restored, and it should be preserved under glass so long as Venango county endures. Its former resting place could be fixed by a marker. An interest in our local history would be aroused. Perhaps not one in a thousand of our county residents has yet seen it, and may not. Schoolcraft has this regarding it:

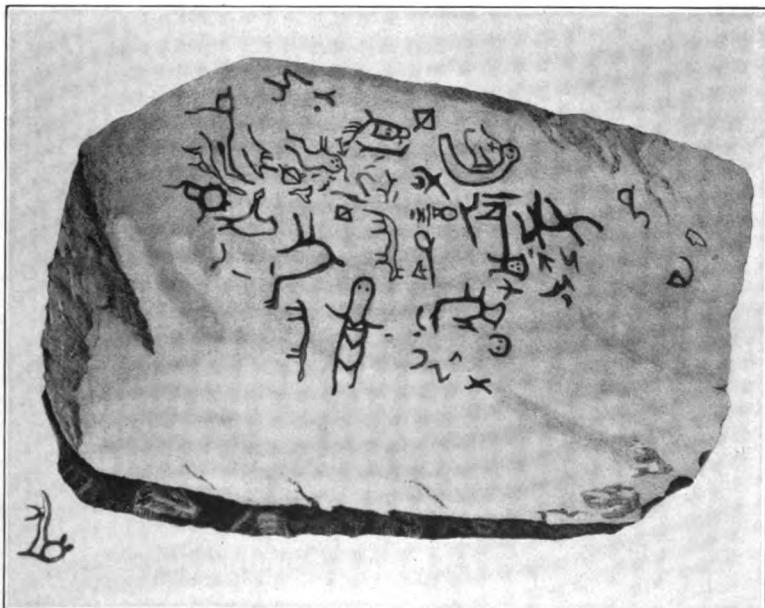
"The inscription itself appears distinctly to record in symbols the triumphs of hunting and

noting the influence, agreeably to pictographs heretofore published, of medical magic. The figure of a female denotes without doubt a captive; various circles representing human heads denote deaths. One of the subordinate figures depicts by his gorgets a chief. The symbolic sign of a raised hand drawn before a person represented with a bird's head, denotes apparently the name of an individual or tribe."

The appearance of the river at this spot now is almost as it was when Celoron buried his futile little plate as the beginning of French domination. The changes are not obtrusive.



*Indian God Rock on the Allegheny River  
Nine Miles Below Franklin, Pa.*



*Inscription on Indian God Rock*



Some iron rails run in parallel lines along the ground. Strings of wire hum to the wind. Yet these are proof of a startling transformation. The scenes enacted in this valley a century and a half ago, seem as strange and remote in thought as the founding of Rome.

Going on down the valley, preceded by the wily Joncaire and the six savages who should persuade the natives to await his coming, Celoron met the Indians in their villages and strove by presents and fair promises to win them as allies to the French. He deposited the sixth and last plate near the mouth of the Miami.

Ascending this river, he reached by a portage the Maumee, down which he floated to Lake Erie; thence back to Montreal, Nov. 10, 1749. His report is not encouraging. He found "all the nations of these places are very ill-disposed against the French and entirely devoted to the English. If we send to trade with them, our traders can never give our merchandise at the price the English do, because of the expense they would be at." He concludes that a substantial establishment would be useful to the proposed colonies, but on account of the many difficulties of the road on which provisions must be transported "it would not succeed except by making a strong defence."

An interesting record relating to French exploration in the Ohio valley is the "Map of a Voyage made on the Beautiful River in New France 1749; by the Rev. Father Bonnecamp, Jesuit Mathematician," which is herewith reproduced. *Longitude occidentale* (west longitude) reckoned from the meridian of Paris is indicated upon the exterior margin at the top and bottom; and north latitude in a similar manner at the sides; the figures upon the inside margin at the top and bottom denote minutes of longitude, each interval including fifteen minutes, the fourth part of a degree; the figures upon the inside margin at the sides represent leagues in the scale of twenty to a degree, each interval including five leagues or fifteen miles. The mark "f" indicates where latitude and longitude were observed, and "II" where plates were buried. The following list of French names as given on this map, with the corresponding American names, will make it easily understood:

R. aux Pommes	Chautauqua Creek
Lac Tjadi Koin	Lake Chautauqua
R. Kananougon	Conewango Creek
La Paille Coupée	Broken Straw Creek
Village de Loups	Village of Loup Indians
R. aux Boeufs	French Creek

R. au Fiel	Clarion River
R. au Vermillion	Mahoning Creek
Attique	Kittanning
Ancien Village de Chaouanons	Ancient Village of Shawnee
Village de Loups (b)	Site of Pittsburgh
Village de Chiningue	Logstown
R. Kanououara	Wheeling Creek
R. Yenanguakonan	Muskingum River
R. Chinodaichta	Great Kanawha River
R. de Sinhiota	Scioto River
R. Blanche	White River
R. de la Roche	Great Miami River
La Demoiselle	Site of Fort Laramie
Portage de la Demoiselle	Portage from the Miami to the Maumee
Fort des Miamis	Site of Fort Wayne
Isle aux Serpentes	Sister Islands
R. aux Raisins	Raisin River
R. aux Cignes	Huron River
R. aux Cedres	Cedar River
Pointe Pelleé	Point Pellee
Pointe aux Pins	Point aux Pins
Lac Erie	Lake Erie

The English translation of *Toute cette partie du lac-ci est inconue* is, All this part of the lake is unknown.

The exploration of this territory was followed by preparations to keep possession of it, by building forts along its border. The French now came up to Erie, called by them Presque Isle, thence across the country to French Creek. The first and second forts were built in 1753 and were called Presque Isle and Le Boeuf, located respectively at Erie and at Waterford. In the fall of 1753 Capt. Chabert de Joncaire, the French-Iroquois half-breed, was sent down to Franklin to build a third fort to be called Machault, after Monsieur Machault, minister of finance in France. Joncaire had not only acted as the advance agent of Celoron and thus obtained an intimate acquaintance with many of the Indians of this whole region. He had improved his opportunities. He had won the regard of many of the natives by his seeming care for their welfare. Several tribes had sent requests to Celoron to allow Joncaire to stay with them. No better man for his place here could have been found. The cabin of Frazier, which was a comfortable one of fair size, he found deserted, but with the British flag flying over the roof. This he replaced by the French colors and occupied the cabin as his headquarters.

John Frazier was doubtless the first white man to settle in Franklin. Why he came, to meet the infinite loneliness of the sky, the for-

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

est and the faces of savages, no one can tell. Had he been disappointed in love? Or in hate? He is a romantic figure. He was of Scotch birth, was a resident of Lancaster county in 1750. As early as 1748 he had been licensed as an Indian trader, and he doubtless built his cabin, and began trading and repairing guns here, soon after. His work was valued by the villagers outside, for one village at least pleaded to have him allowed to remain till spring. In May he had written a letter "to all traders," informing them that the French were making preparations at Le Boeuf. Later he wrote that some men had come down the river with presents from the governor of Canada. In the summer he removed to Turtle Creek, the site of Braddock. A letter from that place tells of the escape of one of his men from Venango, stating that "he only sold eight bucks worth, which Custaloga took from him, and all his corn when he was escaping in the night." In 1754 he became a lieutenant in the British army. The time and manner of his death are not known. He was Venango's first pioneer. He was efficient, farseeing, courageous, and contributed to the general welfare.

In the meantime, the English were disturbed by this line of fortifications building just back of their colonies to shut off their westward expansion. Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia sent a messenger to the Ohio country to learn what the French claimed, and to ascertain the situation and strength of their line of forts. He chose for this purpose a young surveyor, just past twenty-one, George Washington of Virginia,—then. His commission and instructions follow:

*To George Washington Esquire, one of the adjutants general of the troops and forces in the colony of Virginia:*

I, reposing especial confidence in the ability, conduct and fidelity of you, the said George Washington, have appointed you my express messenger; and you are hereby empowered to proceed hence, with all convenient and possible dispatch, to that place on the Ohio river where the French have late erected a fort or forts, or where the commandant of the French forces resides, in order to deliver my letter and message to him, and after waiting not exceeding one week for an answer, you are to take your leave and return immediately back.

To this communication I have set my hand, and caused the great seal of this Dominion to be affixed, at the City of Williamsburgh, the seat of my government, this 30th day of October in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of his Majesty, George the Second, King of Great Britain, etc. etc.

Annoque Domini 1753

ROBERT DINWIDDIE.

Text of instructions:

WHEREAS: I have received instructions of a body of French forces being assembled in a hostile man-

ner on the Ohio River, intending by force of arms to erect certain forts on said river within this territory and contrary to the dignity and peace of our sovereign the King of Great Britain:

These are, therefore, to require and direct you, the said George Washington, forthwith to repair to Logstown, on the said River Ohio, and having there informed yourself where the said French forces have posted themselves, thereupon to proceed to such place; and being arrived there, to present your credentials together with my letter to the chief commanding officer, and in the name of his Britannic Majesty to demand an answer thereto.

On your arrival at Logstown you are to address yourself to the Half King, to Monacatoicha, and the other sachems of the Six Nations, acquainting them with your orders to visit and deliver my letter to the French commanding officer, and desiring the said chiefs to appoint you a sufficient number of their warriors to be your safeguard as near the French as you may desire, and to wait your further directions.

You are diligently to inquire into the number and force of the French on the Ohio, and the adjacent country; how they are likely to be assisted from Canada; and what are the difficulties and conveniences of that communication and the time required for it.

You are to take care to be truly informed what forts the French have erected, and where; how they are garrisoned and appointed, what is their distance from each other, and from Logstown; and from the best intelligence you can procure, you are to learn what gave occasion to this expedition of the French, how they are likely to be supported, and what their pretensions are.

When the French commander has given you the required and necessary dispatches, you are to desire of him a proper guard to protect you so far on your return as you may judge for your safety against any straggling Indians or hunters that may be ignorant of your character and molest you.

Wishing you good success in your negotiation, and a safe and speedy return, I am etc.,

ROBERT DINWIDDIE.

Williamsburgh, October 30, 1753.

His passport follows:

*To all to whom these presents may come or concern, greeting:*

WHEREAS, I have appointed George Washington, Esquire, by commission, under the great seal, my express messenger to the commandant of the French forces on the River Ohio, and as he is charged with business of great importance to his Majesty and the Dominion: I do hereby command all his majesty's subjects, and particularly require all in alliance and amity with the crown of Great Britain, and all others to whom this passport may come, agreeably to the law of nations, to be aiding and assisting, as a safeguard to the said George Washington, and his attendants, in his present passage to and from the River Ohio, as aforesaid.

ROBERT DINWIDDIE.

In obedience to his instructions Washington went by way of Wilts Creek, Md., to Logstown on the Ohio, eighteen miles below what was then merely the site of Pittsburgh. Here he was delayed a day and a half as the chief Half King was absent on a hunting trip.

At the meeting, Washington learned that Half King had met the French General, who received him with great scorn and announced to him that to the French belonged the valley of the Ohio, that the Indians did not own so much soil as was under their finger nails. That the French had sent their general, Lead, ahead of them down the river, and they would soon drive out the English. The Indians were warned to have no commerce with them.

Washington's party was ready to start from Logstown on the 30th of November. He had his own French interpreter, a guide, the chiefs Half King, Jeskakuke, White Thunder, and the Hunter. On Dec. 4th they arrived at the Venango, which Washington calls "an old Indian town situated at the mouth of French Creek on the Ohio." They found Captain Joncaire and French officers comfortably housed in the cabin of John Frazier, from which he had fled. The young messenger disclosed his business to the Captain. But Joncaire, the suave French officer, replied with modesty that while he commanded on the Ohio, a general officer was at a near fort where he advised him to apply; while Joncaire, the Iroquois, holding in his hands a string of wiles to attract the Indians, invited them "to sup" with him and "treated us with the greatest complaisance."

"The men as they dosed themselves pretty plentifully with it, soon banished restraint and gave a license to their tongues to declare their sentiments freely." "They told us it was their absolute design to take possession of the Ohio and by G—d they would do it; though they were sensible that the English had two men to their one, yet their motions were too slow and dilatory to prevent any undertaking of theirs." (*Washington's Journal.*)

The experienced man of the world—that world was no match for the budding genius of democracy, who at that moment was already on his immortal march through history. Washington, after several days' delay caused by the French officers plying his Indians with presents and liquor, which induced them to linger, journeyed to Fort Le Boeuf. On the 13th he met the commandant. He took the next day to consider, and on the morning of the 15th handed to Washington his reply to the Governor. The dilatory tactics continued and gave him the opportunity to study the fort and make his report. Not till the 22d was he back at Venango, where he found the Indians sick and unable to accompany him on the return. The horses were not fit to travel, so Washington, with only Christopher Gist, his friend and guide,

resolved to go through the woods on foot. "I took my necessary papers, pulled off my clothes and tied myself up in a watch coat," and with pack on my back and gun in my hand, and with Gist fitted in the same manner, set out for Logstown.

Two days out they were joined by an Indian, whom Gist thought he had seen with Joncaire. At a favorable moment the savage shot at Washington fifteen paces distant. Washington asked Gist, "are you shot?" They took the Indian. Gist said, "*I would have killed him but the Major would not suffer me.*" He and Gist arrived at Logstown after narrowly escaping being drowned amidst the floating ice of the river. Their feet and hands were frostbitten from sleeping on an island waiting for the water to freeze a bridge for them. His report to the governor and the publication of his journal precipitated a war here by which France lost an Empire in America to Great Britain. This war was transferred to the Eastern continent and France lost to Britain another Empire in India, still another in Africa, and claims in the West Indies.

A new idea sprang from colonial life. It gripped the minds of men with the force of a divine decree. It was the thought of freedom. Not license; but self-government. A citizen-state; not kings' prerogatives. By the visit of its young disciple, a struggle for it began at Franklin which presently involved the world. The struggle still continues.

After Washington's departure, Captain de Joncaire remained at his headquarters in Frazier's old home. He allowed no English traders there. But he made the place a rendezvous for all the Indians of the region whom he could attract. His efforts to win them to the French interest would not be lessened by the failure of his attempt to assassinate young Washington, whom he must have hated. Their natures were opposites, antagonistic; slavish, cruel cunning, against high moral purpose.

The fort was completed in the spring of 1754. Though named Fort Machault by the French, it was always spoken of as the French fort at Venango, by the English. For its erection a sawmill was build on a little run near Eighth street. The heavy machinery for this mill was transported from Canada, via portages at Niagara and Erie and then down French creek, a tremendous undertaking for the time. Stockades and heavy walls were constructed of the saplings and logs from the forests. The boards for the barracks, and to finish the officers' quarters, would be furnished by the mill. This would also provide materials for the

building of boats and barges to be used for transportation of supplies for the fort, or for expeditions down the river. Fort Pitt was at this time the place to be destroyed. A plan or map of Fort Machault came to light in 1875. Probably it was copied from a French plan by an English officer, since the French name is not used.

Venango fort is situated on a rising piece of ground on a rich bottom abounding with clover, sixty yards west of the Ohio. The north and south polygon is forty-five yards and the east and west polygon thirty-seven yards. The bastions are built of saplings eight inches thick and eight feet in length set stockade fashion. Part of the curtains are of hewed timber, laid lengthwise upon one another, which also make one side of the barracks.

The body of the work was in the form of a parallelogram, in size about seventy-five by one hundred and five feet. In the interior were the magazine, fifteen by eighteen feet, protected by three feet of earth, and several buildings for officers' barracks. The gate fronted the river. The soldiers occupied forty-four separate buildings to the north and east sides of the fort. Along the northern side, and about fifty feet distant, a small stream supplied water to the camp. On the present city plan of Franklin, Elk street passes through the site of the fort, while its southern side reaches nearly to Sixth street.

When this redoubt was built, it was probably not the intention, since the French arms had been so easily successful at Fort Du Quesne, to erect a strong fortress. It was not likely to be attacked. But later, when Fort Pitt became formidable, it was decided to make it much stronger. It was strengthened in 1758 and a larger garrison placed in it. It then became a gathering place for all the Indians hostile to the English. In the summer of 1759 Fort Machault assumed a new and great importance. It was the rallying point for the collection of men and materials to descend the river and to capture Fort Pitt. A thousand Frenchmen and as many Indians were assembled there. All the trees of sufficient size had been cut down to make boats, at Le Boeuf, it was said. A draft was made for provisions and men from Kaskaskia and the Mississippi. It was a bold and very laborious undertaking. While all were full of hope and ready to embark for Fort Pitt the end came suddenly. Messengers arrived from Niagara with orders to abandon the forts in Western Pennsylvania and hasten all their forces to the rescue of Fort Niagara. The order was to destroy the fort and all supplies which they could not take

away. The fort was burned after spiking and burying their guns. The trinkets, merchandise, and gay insignia were bestowed upon the Indians, and the laughing Frenchmen bidding their sorrowing friends adieu, and promising to come back next year to drive out the English, departed. The kaleidoscope was disjoined in their hands, and they held only broken bits of glass which would never again assume the beautiful forms of hope. The dream of domination in the New World was ended, and others with it. Only the solitary savages remained along the Rivière aux Boeufs.

After the abandonment of Venango by the French a new fort was built by the English, in 1760. It was a much stronger and more pretentious work than Machault. It was put up in an incredibly short time, considering the many inconveniences and difficulties encountered. The materials were brought down the creek. Skillful engineers planned the work, but who they were we know not. There was no fear of the French. They had departed. But the Indians were still unfriendly, and as a defense against them it was provided. A small garrison under Lieutenant Gordon was placed there. Under ordinary care these preparations would have been ample. During the Pontiac wars the little garrison and fort at Venango were blotted out. Lieutenant Gordon was tortured for several days by fire, before his brave spirit left the body. Not one of the garrison was spared. One prisoner, a woman, was taken to Buffalo. She told the story. The Indians, Senecas, came as in sport to play La crosse before the fort, the ball was struck several times into the fort and the laughing players were allowed to go inside to reclaim it. This happened several times; when suddenly the smiling players became shrieking fiends and struck down the unsuspecting garrison, inside and outside the inclosure. This ruse was tried at other places on the same day. Pontiac was a man of broad comprehension. He planned to exterminate the whites in the west. He said either the white or the red man must go. Both can not remain. If the white man stays, we must go. His reasoning was correct, but his premises were false. He was splendid raw material, but was already at the end of a long line of development, and if the white man, perhaps—but it would have been like teaching songs to a robin, or a wildcat to plough—and the tomahawks—and treachery. No; we can not sympathize very deeply with Pontiac. Civilization is best. The Indian we have still! He is improving faster than the peasants did in the

Dark Ages, and he is about as numerous as he ever was on this continent. Some of them are in Congress.

Again, the region of Venango is the hunting ground of savages. Perhaps they miss at times their jolly friends the French, with proffered glass of Onontio's milk (brandy) to drink Onontio's health in Quebec. They have heard that Onontio is no longer there. The English rule there also. Or they may miss the smith and the traders who supplied their wants in winter. They are still hostile to the English, who are again making settlements along the Allegheny. To protect these new colonists, a third fort was built at Venango, soon after the close of the Revolution. It was called Fort Franklin. The country now belonged to the Americans. The government would encourage emigration. The settlers must be protected. Therefore, in the spring of 1787, a company of United States soldiers, under command of Captain Hart, was sent to build the new fortification. The ground chosen was on the bank of French creek, a little above the present bridge near Thirteenth street. It was not a formidable work. It was about one hundred feet square, with bastions at the angles and surrounded by pickets some eight feet high. Inside of this was a ditch. Another ditch was constructed along the bluff to serve as a rifle-pit. In the spring of 1788 General Harmar made a tour of inspection of western posts, arriving here May 3d. In his journal of that date he speaks of this visit:

3d. About eight o'clock this morning, after passing one island, we entered the mouth of French creek. The fort stands half a mile up. Several miles below we were discovered by some Indians, who cut across and gave notice of our approach to Captain Hart. The arrival of General Harmar was announced with seven rounds of a one-pounder from the fort. Very kindly received by Captain Hart and Lieutenant Frothingham, at the head of their command. The company reviewed and dismissed. Spent the day in examining Captain Hart's work, viewing the adjacent country and the old fortifications of the French and the British. There is a fine flat of good land here, altogether on the lower side of French creek, but sufficient for several farms, the only flat land from Mahoning or Mogulbughtiton up. . . . Captain Hart's fort or Fort Franklin as it is called, is built precisely after the plan of the one which had been erected by the British, called Venango. It is a square redoubt, with a block-house three stories high in the centre; stands better than half a mile up French creek upon very good ground, but the situation, in my opinion, is by no means so eligible, as that of old Venango, built by the English. The last work stood upon a commanding ground pretty close to the bank of the Allegheny, half a mile below French creek and a mile from Fort Franklin. The cellar wall and huge

stack of chimneys of the blockhouse are of stone and are yet quite entire. The parapet and some other parts remain perfect, and the whole work might have been rebuilt with half the labor and expense of that built by Hart. The only reason the captain could give for taking new ground was the convenience of timber.

It served its purpose. It was the only place to which the earliest settlers could resort in case of Indian raids. Doubtless the fact of its presence prevented attacks that would otherwise have been made. When trouble was feared with the Indians in 1791, the people of Meadville sent their women and children to Fort Franklin.

Among those who came to Franklin at this time was Darius Mead, the father of Gen. David Mead. He was taken prisoner by Captain Bull, an Indian, who professed to be friendly, and a companion, in a field near the fort, and was taken to the forest. The following day his body and also Bull's were found in Mercer county by a friendly Indian, who sent his daughter to Fort Franklin with the information. It would appear that Mead had obtained possession of Bull's knife in the night and after killing Bull was later slain by the chief's companion.

The settlers believed in 1794 that a plan had been concocted to destroy the white people of Venango County. Major Denny writes, "no doubt but that a plan was formed to destroy all the posts and settlements in this quarter." But this seems hardly probable. Pontiac, the mighty, vengeful genius, had been slain in a drunken brawl, and Cornplanter, the great man of the region, was inclined to be friendly. His people, however, were jealous of the increasing number of the settlers. Apprehension was rife; danger lay hid in the forest shades. Standing Stone, a chief of the Onondagas, according to a deposition of Daniel Ransome, said that "he thought the times at Fort Franklin would soon be bad," and urged him to leave it. Andrew Elliot, who visited the fort June 29th, writes: "On my arrival, the place appeared to be in such a defenseless condition that with the concurrence of Captain Denny, and the officer in command, we remained there some time, and employed the troops in rendering it more tenable. It may now be considered defensible, provided the number of men is increased. The garrison at present consists of twenty-five men, one half of whom are unfit for duty, and it is my opinion that double that number would not be more than sufficient, considering the importance of the safety of the settlement on French creek."

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Adlum's letter from Fort Franklin, Aug. 31, 1794, to Governor Mifflin, says in part:

Cornplanter laughs at the idea of our keeping the posts, either at Le Boeuf or at the mouth of French creek, should there be a war; for he says it will not be possible for us to supply them with provisions, as they will constantly have parties along the river and path to cut off all supplies, and that we would soon have to run away from them. I don't know how far it may operate in our favor should General Wayne be successful in the westward; but it appears to me that war is inevitable, and I think Captain Brandt has a very great hand in it, and his policy is to get the whole of the Six Nations on the north side of the lakes, as it will make him more consequential, for at present there is but a small number of them there. The Cornplanter desired me to give notice that it was unnecessary to send any more provisions to Le Boeuf, as they would soon have to leave it.

The son of the Black Chief made me the present of a hog while I was there, and in the morning before I came away, Half Town informed me that he dreamed I made a feast and dance with it; and as it is a general custom to give the Indians what they dream for (provided they are not too extravagant), I told him he must have it, and superintendent of the feast, and I would buy another that the whole town might partake. For I wished to get the sentiments of the Indians generally. It is the custom of the Indians, at such times, to set up a post and strike it to brag of the feats they have done, or those they intend. Some of the old chiefs were very delicate, and only told of their feats against the Cherokees, as they said it might injure my feelings if they mentioned anything against the whites; others wished General Washington would not grant their request, that they might have one more opportunity of showing that bravery and expertness in war against us. The Cornplanter bragged often and appeared to speak as if war were certain. In one of his brags he gave me a pair of moccasins, saying as he addressed himself to me: "It is probable that we shall have war soon. I wish every person to do their duty to their country, and expect you will act your part as becomes a man: and I see your moccasins are nearly worn out. I give you this pair to put on when you come to fight us." I took them and thanked him and said I would reserve them for that purpose. Du Quania, who headed a party of Indians from the north side of the lakes, in one of his brags said that he was always an enemy of the Americans; that he served the king last war, and when peace was concluded he moved over the lakes which some said was through fear. "But," says he, "you see it is not so, for I still love the king and hate the Americans, and now that there is like to be danger you see me here to face it." The Indians in general wished me to suppose that the British had no hand in the present business, but from several things they related to me, it appeared plain that they are at the bottom of it.

It seems likely from the correspondence of this period that an uprising of the Indians had been planned. This is shown by the presence of the Canadian chief and his band. The "Six Nations" may also have been urging Cornplanter to make war upon the settlements; but

he was unwilling, as his hints of danger, intended to warn them, indicate. His "brags" were evidently for "home consumption," and to satisfy the chiefs of the Northern Iroquois. He had been striving for some time to keep peace, so that he had been blamed by his own people for his work in some of the late treaties. On the other hand, it is very likely that the smashing victory of "Mad Anthony Wayne" over the Miamis was already known to the Indians, and that the warlike ardor of the red men was pretty well extinguished. "Mad Anthony" might now come to Pennsylvania, and they feared him more than any other Indian fighter. Wayne's victory occurred at a most opportune time. The "brags" of the chiefs may also be considered as safety valves which relieved their pent up war spirits. The garrison at Fort Franklin was strengthened, and this was good.

After this there was some trouble with the Indians; but the cases were between individuals who had differences to adjust. There were no more raids, or signs of any for years. Fort Franklin was abandoned in 1796, when a fourth fortress, called the Old Garrison, was erected in a more suitable location, at the mouth of French creek. After 1805, when the county was organized, a fortress was felt to be unnecessary, and this last building for war only, enjoyed a period of civil life as a jail. Another transformed war product was closely associated with it during this strictly peace function. Capt. George Fowler, formerly of the British army, became an American, was elected justice of the peace, lived in this building for a time, where he could try cases and if occasion demanded incarcerate the guilty, lodge and feed them in a homelike way. He was a good English soldier, and became a patriotic citizen of this country. In 1819 a jail was erected on the South Park. The work of dilapidation began. Now the "Old Garrison," with the other three, has joined the world of invisible things.

## LAND TITLES

At the time settlements were begun in Pennsylvania, before the coming of Penn, it was quite generally believed that an Indian had no right to land that would prevent a Christian nation from taking possession of it. Priority of discovery was at first claimed as giving title to a heathen country, and therefore the Spaniards assumed ownership of the whole continent. But this claim, being too large to keep, was soon dropped. Priority of possession,

coupled with power to keep hold, was soon silently seen to constitute a good title against not only the Indians, but also all other comers. The Indian was considered to have only the right of "occupancy" which affected the part actually used or occupied and which could in no way imply a title in fee to the soil any more than could the hole of a fox or of a wolf. Notwithstanding the Indians' claim, the Christian having prior possession to other Christians and power owned the fee and could terminate at his pleasure all relations of the Indian with his mother earth. Thus the Spaniards doubtless thought themselves possessed of the right to murder every man, woman and child in Mexico and Peru. But they were not able to keep any colonies there. They had to leave early in the 18th century. Not one of their governments which they established in Mexico, Central America, South America or North America now remains; not even the same form of government, for they are now all republics. Spanish occupation of a large part of this hemisphere is indicated now not by any high endeavor for humanity, but noticeably by a race of half-breeds, and other breeds made up of small fractions of many races, and also by the great number of their odd and astounding preparations of hot-weather cookery.

But at one time priority of possession was considered among all the colonizing nations as a valid title. All kings recognized it as such if they were sending out explorers. They assumed the title and gave grants. The head of the church on earth recognized it. As this title was not derived from any earthly source, like purchases for a consideration, established by law upheld by courts among civilized nations, but descended fully formed upon the discoverer of a heathen land, it was customary among Christian nations to speak of it as a "heavenly title." The phrase "this heavenly title" had been used by judges in making decisions before the time of Penn.

There is no doubt, however, that public opinion in England in the seventeenth century discountenanced all the harsh treatment of the Indians; and there is also no doubt that the treatment of the Indians in New England, Virginia and the Carolinas was far better than what was known to be the practice in the Spanish colonies. Roger Williams, who started as a colonist in Plymouth and in Salem, was the first to deny the validity of the "heavenly title." He was a very learned man. He was as well, an eloquent, persuasive preacher. He drew. Many loved him as a teacher of truth. In 1635 the General Court banished him from

the colony. He was ordered to leave in six weeks. His offense was that he denied the authority of the court respecting two things: The first was the right of the King to appropriate and grant the lands of the Indians without first purchasing them; and the other was the right of the civil power to impose faith and worship. In other words, the Indians should be satisfied before the settlers took their lands, and the settlers themselves should be free to choose their church, according to their own beliefs, with no directions from the magistrates. He emigrated—barely escaped from the court, which was expecting to return him to England. He founded a colony, after buying the land. Here he lived and wrote some of the most learned works of the century, in "the thickest of the native Indians of America, in their very wild houses and by their barbarous fires." His colony prospered and continued with no material change in its constitution till well into the nineteenth century. Its success was a complete refutation of the first count in the judgment against him of the General Court. The second count is now thought to be eternally wrong, a killer of faith. Truth has many sides. Not all may see the same side; but unless choice is free, it is not one's own act and has no moral quality. Still, a large part of New England was obtained from the Indians by conquest.

Penn paid the Indians for every rod of land he took from them. Though the price seems small, the Indians were always satisfied. His colony enjoyed peace with them for seventy years, while many of the other colonies had outbreaks and massacres. This has been generally advanced as the reason that his colony enjoyed such wonderful growth and prosperity during this period. Penn's sons adopted their father's policy; and though in one or two instances the Indians considered themselves overreached, the land was all bought over again in smaller tracts. So it may be considered that the whole Commonwealth was fairly purchased from its native owners.

At the close of the Revolution the State succeeded the Penns as possessor of all their charter rights. Therefore it could dispose of any land not already purchased, and could protect its grant by a deed valid throughout the nation. A confirmatory law to this effect had also been enacted by our State legislature. But it was thought best to conform to the letter and spirit of the policy of the great founder, by the purchase from the Indians of all charter lands remaining, and the satisfaction of their claims regarding them. This recognition of the

natives' interest in the land is a tribute to the justice of a great soul. The last purchase from the Indians secured to the State an important tract in which Venango county is included. It was effected at a conference held at Fort Stanwix, New York, Oct. 23, 1784. At this meeting a deed was executed and delivered to the Commissioners of the Commonwealth by representatives of the Six Nations, purporting to convey all the land within a given boundary line described as follows:

"From the point where the east side of the east branch of the River Susquehanna crosses the northern boundary of Pennsylvania down said east side till it comes opposite the mouth of a creek called by the Indians Awandac, and across the river and up said creek on the south side thereof along the range of hills called Burnett's hills by the English and by the Indians —; on the north side of them to the head of a creek which runs into the west branch of the Susquehanna, which creek is by the Indians called Tyadaghton but by the Pennsylvanians Pine creek, and down said creek on the south side thereof to the said west branch of the Susquehanna: then crossing the said river and running up the course on the south side thereof the several courses thereof to the fork of the same river which lies nearest to a place on the Ohio (Allegheny) called Kittanning, and from the fork by a straight line to Kittanning aforesaid; then down the said river by the several courses thereof to where the western boundary of the said State of Pennsylvania crosses the said river; thence across the said river on the western boundary of the said State, and thence due north along the said western boundary to the end of the forty-second and the beginning of the forty-third degrees of north latitude; thence by a due east line separating the end of the forty-second and the beginning of the forty-third degrees of north latitude to the east side of the east branch of the River Susquehanna," at the place of beginning.

This deed conveys all the land within the boundaries noted. But it was thought the Wyandots and Delawares had as good a title to a part of the tract as that of the Six Nations, and the Commonwealth by a treaty made at Fort McIntosh, now Beaver, the following year purchased their title. Prior to the acquisition of this territory the State had assumed obligations which controlled its disposition to a great degree. Toward the close of the Revolution, Pennsylvania, as well as all the other colonies, was suffering from the evils of a depreciated currency. The soldiers and all

others serving the American interests, from this colony, must be paid in this currency. To compensate for the shrinkage in value, Pennsylvania prepared a scale of depreciation for every month from Jan. 1, 1777, to Dec. 31, 1781, and decreed that according to this scale the troops of her line should be paid. As money to pay what was due could not then be had, certificates were used, and to them the name "depreciation certificates" was given. By another act, passed Dec. 18, 1780, it was ordered that the Depreciation Certificates should be received at the land office in payment of the purchase money of unlocated lands, and that they should there be taken as the equivalent of coin. A vast tract of territory to redeem this pledge was set apart in 1783. It began at a point where the western boundary of the State crosses the Ohio river, runs up the Ohio and the Allegheny rivers to the mouth of Mogulbughtiton creek, thence by a due west line to the western boundary of the State. The "certificate lands" were in this area.

But the faith of the Commonwealth was pledged to give to her citizens serving in the Federal army, or, if they should die in the service, to their heirs, additional "donations and quantities of land." A second tract was designated for this purpose. It lay just north of the "certificate lands," and extended to the northern limit of the State. On the east the boundary was the Allegheny river, from Mogulbughtiton creek to Conawango creek, and a meridian to the north boundary of the State. On the west it touched Ohio. These were the "donation lands." That they might be equitably distributed, the good lands and the bad, a lottery was arranged and each claimant was allowed to draw from the wheels the tickets assigned to his rank. No officer could draw more than two thousand acres. No private could receive less than two hundred.

William Irvine, a Revolutionary general, afterward explored these lands in accordance with the directions of the land commissioners, and reported that one district was unfit for farming. This section was at once withdrawn from the lottery. It became known as the "Struck District." During this expedition Irvine discovered that the State owned only a very short extent along Lake Erie. Shortly after this the "Triangle" was purchased from the United States Government.

On the 3d of May, 1785, the controller general reported to the Supreme Executive Council the names of all who were entitled to receive lands. The surveyor general was directed to

make a survey. The "donation lands" were accordingly divided into ten districts, numbered in regular order from the depreciation lands to the northern boundary of the State, and extending westward from the Allegheny river and Conawango creek. In Venango county the Sixth, Fifth and Fourth districts in full width, and the Third in part, pass across the county from the Allegheny westward and enter the adjoining counties.

The deputies appointed for these districts were James Christie for the Sixth, Benjamin Lodge for the Fifth, Andrew Henderson for the Fourth, and Griffith Evans for the Third. A provision of the act of 1783 directed that those entitled to these lands should make application within two years after the close of the war with an extension of one year for executors and heirs. In 1792 the officials of the land office were directed to draw lots for such persons as were entitled to them according to the list furnished by the controller general. The land office was closed against all applications for donation lands after Oct. 1, 1813. The great body of donation lands had been located and patented within a few years after the passage of the act of 1785. The surveys were principally made in 1786 and 1787.

In 1788 Andrew Ellicott suggested to the Executive Council that certain tracts especially desirable for future development should be surveyed. In the following year that body authorized the survey of reservations at Fort Venango and at the mouth of the Conawango on the Allegheny river, at Fort Le Boeuf, at the head of navigation on French creek, and at Erie. It was stipulated that none of these reservations should exceed three thousand acres in extent. These surveys were made by John Adlum, and reported to the Council in September, 1789. This practically withdrew these lands from the market. It was not till April 18, 1795, that the uses to which these tracts were to be put were declared. The legislature then enacted that, "In order to facilitate and promote the progress of settlements within the Commonwealth and to afford additional security to the frontiers thereof by the establishment of towns upon the lands heretofore reserved for public uses," the governor should appoint two commissioners to lay out towns at these points. The act as it relates to Franklin is as follows: "The said commission shall also survey or cause to be surveyed 300 acres for town lots, and 700 acres adjoining thereto for outlots, at the most eligible place within the tract heretofore reserved for public use at the mouth of French creek; and the lands so

surveyed shall be respectively laid out into town lots and outlots in such manner, and with such streets, lanes, alleys and reservations for public use, as the said commissioners shall direct: but no town lot shall contain more than one-third of an acre; no outlot shall contain more than five acres, nor shall the reservations for public uses exceed in the whole ten acres; and all the streets, lanes and alleys thereof, and of the outlots adjoining thereto, shall be and remain forever common highways." The commissioners were required to complete and file a report of the survey "with all convenient dispatch with the Secretary of the Commonwealth." This was done within the same year, 1795. No ancient name, "Ganayarhhare," "Weningo," "Wenango" and "The old Indian town at Venango," appears as the appellation of the bright new map with "streets and alleys and reservations for public uses." The little place, great already in the history springing from its many names, is christened,—"and the town shall be called Franklin." The proceeds of the sale of the Franklin lands were principally devoted to the building of the first county courthouse, and the academy. North of French creek, for many years, a tract of several hundred acres was unsold. It was known as the Academy Reserve. A tract of a little more than three hundred acres, situated at the mouth of Oil creek, was surveyed by Alexander McDowell. It comprised the greater part of the present site of Oil City. It was patented to Cornplanter March 16, 1796, and remained in the possession of this chief till 1818.

The next step taken by the legislature, now that its benevolent intention had been realized to the extent of its power, was to promote the settlement of the northwestern part of its territory. There remained many thousands of acres not applied to the redemption of depreciation certificates, or likely to be drawn as donation lands. The settlements near the west and in the western interior were subject to Indian raids, had in fact been terrorized by the Indians. To strengthen the settlements in the west and northwestern parts of the State, and also to provide a revenue for the increasing demands upon the government, it was decided to offer for settlement or for sale all the lands remaining of the purchases of 1768 and 1784. By an act passed on the 3d of April, 1792, that part of the purchase of 1784 lying south and east of the Allegheny river was offered for sale at five pounds per hundred acres; northwest of the Ohio and Allegheny rivers the price was seven pounds, ten shillings per hundred acres. The latter was offered only to persons "who

will cultivate, improve and settle the same, or cause the same to be cultivated, improved or settled." There was no condition of settlement attaching to lands east and south of the Allegheny.

There were two methods of acquiring title. A warrant could be paid for at the land office for a tract of land to be surveyed, and the title completed by settlement and improvement within the two years; or the settlement and improvement could be made first and the payment made later. But settlements were made very slowly. The colonies, after gaining their independence by an exhausting war, were left in a poor state. The foreign business of the country had decreased rapidly during the Revolution and it had practically disappeared during the next six years of the Confederation. The several colonies were jealous of one another, and many of them even legislated against the trade of the others. In the combat against a common foe, the colonies had united, but when the danger was passed they were separate governments again. The Congress of the United Colonies had no credit abroad, nor could it make needed improvements at home. It could assess the colonies amounts needed for necessary expenses, but it could not collect them. The trouble with the Congress of the Confederation was that it could not reach directly the individual citizens of the country. It made recommendations to the colonies. Their assemblies considered, recommended, delayed, then watched the other assemblies. It was like calling spirits from the vasty deep. To complicate matters each colony had a paper currency of its own; all greatly depreciated and each one differing in rate of depreciation from all the others. There was a multiplicity of denominations in use; and coins of the same name did not have the same value throughout the country, even at par. It would take a smart business man a month to learn the names and values of the different kinds of money used in the colonies. No wonder the trade between colonies decreased. There was little manufacturing, no great demand for labor or opportunity to dispose of its products. Life at this time, outside the few considerable cities, seemed turning back again to primitive conditions. One had to catch or dig up, or make with his own hands pretty nearly everything he used or occasionally bartered. This was the time when a likely widow with a large number of children was a most attractive institution; as a self supporting, growing concern, it was generally considered that a co-partnership in it made life on the

frontier an assured success. More rarely a widower with both hands full of sons and daughters joined fortunes with the same kind of widow. Therefore, some of our great grand pioneers have left many great-great-grandchildren. In certain of our largest eastern cities there are forty to sixty pages of the directory filled with the same family name. Perhaps not yet in Venango, but wait a hundred years. In the meantime, fine the old bachelors and the widowers.

In all those ancient homes, whether small or large, most things to eat, drink, or wear, and many to exchange were made. Everyone worked; and cheerful work for the common good is still the blessed way out of a common ill.

In 1792, when Pennsylvania was trying for settlers, "we, the people in order to form a more perfect union," had adopted our Constitution, and the United States had made some progress, during the three years of our first president, George Washington. The debts of the colonies had been assumed by the general government, a national currency had been adopted, the public credit was strengthened, and our vanished foreign commerce was reappearing. But the people were poor. Very few had money to buy land outright. To clear away the trees and to dig from the soil and find in the forest enough to live upon, and to finish the required improvements within the two years, and then find the means to pay for the land, was a momentous undertaking. At this time there was only one settler in Franklin under the shadow of the Fort; and even he had scarcely settled down yet and completed his stock of goods to begin trade with the Indians and with the garrison. It was three or more years before the settlers began to arrive freely; and they might not have come there then except for the encouragement of the land companies.

These companies were formed by taking advantage of the right, inherent in the act of 1792, of buying large tracts of public lands from the State for investment or for settlement. The Holland Land Company was probably the largest of the companies operating in this State and was as good as the best of them. It was composed chiefly of Dutch capitalists who had advanced money to Robert Morris, the financial providence of the Revolution in its darkest days, and who had received lands in payment of their claims, in New York and later in Pennsylvania. The first lands secured here were a number of one-thousand-acre tracts east of the Allegheny in Pinegrove

township, while many others were located in the part of the county now belonging to Forest. A very large transaction in land titles was the purchase of nearly half a million acres negotiated by its New York agents, Herman LeRoy and William Bayard, from James Wilson of Philadelphia, a judge of the United States Supreme Court. The land consisted of nine hundred and twelve tracts of four hundred and thirty acres each, situated between French creek and the Allegheny river, which John Adlum had agreed to secure for Judge Wilson by a contract, dated April 26, 1793; and two hundred and fifty tracts of four hundred and thirty acres each, to be taken from lands entered for Judge Wilson by James Chapman, the Holland Company reserving the privilege of substituting other lands east of French creek if not satisfied with the latter tracts—the whole amounting to 499,660 acres, not including allowance of six per cent. for roads. The consideration was thirty-four thousand, eight hundred sixty pounds, of which the company retained an amount sufficient to pay all fees, and interest on the purchase money from the date of application. A large portion of the lands in Venango county north of French creek and the Allegheny river, and particularly that part east of Oil creek, is included in this purchase, which was completed Aug. 21, 1793. The local agent of this company, for the counties of Erie, Crawford, Warren and Venango, had his headquarters at Meadville. The last agent of the company there was H. J. Huidekoper, who continued in that capacity till Dec. 31, 1836, when he bought the remaining interests of which he had charge, with lesser interests in Otsego and Chenango counties, N. Y., and Berkshire county, Mass., for \$198,400.

The policy of the company was liberal. A large store established in Meadville had made disbursements exceeding five thousand dollars by 1795. Supply depots of implements and provisions were established in the following year; settlers were invited to locate on the lands, and funds were liberally loaned to them for that purpose. Settlement and improvement, according to the law of 1792, entitled the settler to one hundred acres free with the privilege of purchasing the remainder of the four hundred acres at \$1.50 per acre. This gratuity was continued till 1805. In 1796, twenty-two thousand dollars were expended and sixty thousand dollars in 1797, on roads and in assisting settlers in various ways. In 1798 mills were erected, one of which was situated quite near the county line and is mentioned in a description of the boundaries of Allegheny

township in 1800. In that year thirty thousand dollars were expended, and in 1799 forty thousand dollars were expended upon roads, mills, and in encouraging settlement. Purchasers were given long terms of credit, usually eight years, frequently extended to sixteen or twenty years. The expenditures were summarized by Judge Yeates:

The Holland Land Company have paid to the State the consideration money of one thousand, one hundred and sixty-two warrants, and the surveying fees of one thousand and forty-eight tracts of land (generally of four hundred acres each), besides making very considerable expenditures by their exertions, honorable to themselves and useful to the community, in order to effect settlements. Computing the sums advanced, the lost tracts by prior improvements and interferences, and the quantity of one hundred acres granted to each individual for making an actual settlement on their lands, it is said that the average expended by the company is between two hundred and thirty and two hundred and forty dollars on each tract.

There were other land companies operating in this county. Their policies have not differed widely from that pursued by the Holland Land Company. Their commerce with the settlers began, however, at a later period than that of the former company, and it has not been necessary for them to expend so much to assist settlements upon their lands. Many land companies operating in this country have given the lawyers occasion to investigate many interesting and profitable questions. Such occasions have probably been as rare in our county as in any other section of the country. Land companies have sometimes been held in low esteem by numbers of people. At times legislatures have been hostile to them; while the courts have quite generally sustained them. These conditions have arisen principally in the later years of the companies.

During and after the Indian wars in the northwestern territory, much confusion arose regarding land titles. Many settlers were driven from their holdings by Indian raids before they could comply with the law requiring improvement. Other settlers coming in either during the war or just after it closed, before the first occupants of the claims had returned, asserted that they were entitled to remain, complete the improvements and receive the patent. The Supreme Court in 1800 held "That under the law the settler was bound to continually persevere in his efforts to make a settlement"; and as the Holland Company through their settlers had not done so, their titles were forfeited, and the application of the company for a mandamus was refused. This decision led

to much litigation and confusion. In 1802, a special law permitted the Supreme court to hear an agreed case, supposed to cover all points. The decision was different, but the same in result. "That though the prevention by the enemies of the United States suspended, it did not dispense with, the conditions of settlement," and therefore such settler to perfect a title was bound to renew his endeavor to maintain a settlement on his land as soon as the danger was removed. If so, his warrant was good; if not, it was forfeited. Finally the *cause célèbre* of "The Holland Land Company" was decided in the Supreme court of the United States in 1805. Chief Justice Marshall decided that under the law of 1792 the settler was excused, by reason of the war, from making an actual settlement before Jan. 1, 1796, and if he then persisted in making his settlement he was entitled to his patent, according to law. This decision did as much to quiet contests as any power could have effected except death. It was worthy of the jurist who has been considered by great judges during the last seventy-five years, among others, by the present lord chief justice of England, as the greatest interpreter of fundamental law that has yet appeared. What a swarm of stinging contentions this decision, like a queen bee, has quieted! Its force has prevailed throughout this country, and the English-speaking world, wherever settlement was halted in war-troubled regions.

The work of the land companies has been thought by some not essential to the development of a new country. To settle a wilderness is labor which requires capital as well as any other can, to prevent loss of time and of effort. It is difficult to see how the State, impoverished by a succession of wars, could get a fund from its wild lands at just the time it was needed for internal improvements, benefiting most of all the settlers upon new territory. The companies paid into the treasury the cost of surveys and assumed the burden of making improvements, in addition to the State's own price for the land to which they purposed to lead the settlers.

Again, the land was remote. Blank space was the enemy of the solitary, the remoteness of his kind, the rarity of mutual helpfulness. The wilderness might become suddenly terrible with death creeping unseen among the trees. The company offered inducements to men to go together, near enough to aid one another in work or defense, with supply depot and mill within reach, and roads. The settlement places increased in number faster than seems possible

otherwise. Time to fulfill legal requirements was not so often lost by Indian raids, and life itself was safer. Some of the early settlers exhausted their capital by just arriving. They may have started payments with a dollar. But they persisted. From then the forests drew back. The wild beasts and the savages fled. Tangled undergrowths and unwholesome swamps disappeared. The soil, warmed by the sun, sustained the plants and the animals of an older cooperation. The results of time across the seas were tried and adapted to new conditions. Through the stress of hard work, the early troubles passed to better things; and the settlers themselves became higher types of humanity, with broader outlook and keener insight to face the future.

It would seem that the land companies, as conducted here, were a natural evolution needed to assist and to hasten the founding of homes in our county, in early times before the Indians had gone out and while the white men were coming in.

#### SETTLEMENT

In 1790 the State was the possessor of all former claims of the natives to territory within her borders. This result had been reached by a succession of treaties with the Indians, beginning at the time of Penn. At first the red man's idea of land title as understood by the white man was entirely indefinite. In his racial experience, there had been nothing like it. His claim to the land was like that to rivers and lakes, and to the common air. He might be willing to move aside for a while, and breathe, fish and hunt elsewhere, or to share these privileges with newcomers as exchange of favors. But the ownership in fee of the white man, that exclusive clutch of mother-earth from the depths below to the sky above, persisting through time, was as far from his thought as the psychology of the indeterminate. He soon began to learn the "Walking Purchase" by which the sons of Penn obtained thousands of acres unfairly, it was claimed, and the entry of settlers in the southeast who used rifles and hunting knives, but did not purchase, aroused the Indians to revolt. They were forced to submit and move to other sections, by their masters, the Six Nations. The progress of the settlers westward through the State continued. The forests fell along the advancing frontier, and in the cleared spaces new life developed in which the Indians could not share. Finally, in 1754, came the treaty at Albany, which seemed to place all remain-





GY-ANT-WA-KA  
John Abeel The Cornplanter

*Cornplanter*

ing lands in possession of the Proprietaries. The next year every tribe in Pennsylvania succumbed to the blandishments of the French, and by their defeat of Braddock, exposed the frontiers to the frightfulness of Indian massacres for many years. The Six Nations at this time did not interfere, though most of them were on the other side, at home, during the French war. Pennsylvania suffered for thirty years with most of the others. New York, comparatively safe at first, was most terribly scourged by its red and white Indians during the Revolution.

Did any great chief, as he met the oncoming lines of settlers, catch a glimpse of their destiny? Was it revealed to some wise warrior in a flash of wizard insight, that the widening front of mingled races, always moving westward, should become broad as the sunrise and plant empires of civilization in place of the desert? It seems so. Pontiac saw it and schemed to belie his vision. Later it touched the sight of Cornplanter, and he was not "unmindful." He sought "the council of the thirteen fires," and there ever after remained.

#### CORNPLANTER

Of those coming into prominence after the Revolution, Cornplanter is the noblest Indian of them all. The only reason he can not be so called, is that he was half white. His father was a Dutch trader, named John Abeel. His mother was a princess, the daughter of a Seneca sachem. This is proved by her three sons being known as Seneca chiefs, namely—her celebrated son, Gy-ant-wa-chi-a or Cornplanter, and her younger sons Ga-ne-o-di-yo or Handsome Lake, and Ta-wan-ne-ars or Black-snake. Among all the natives, so far as is known, the children were of the mother's blood; she was the head, the line of descent was from her. The mothers cultivated the land, owned it and its products, were the guardians of the family stores and of the public treasures; and they intervened quite often to prevent the sale of lands planned by the chiefs. They knew when it was best to leave their dwellings, their fields and their orchards.

Cornplanter was born in 1732 at Conewango, an important Seneca town, situated on the Genesee river. He received the care and training of all Seneca boys. In an interesting address to the Governor of Pennsylvania he tells how as a child he "played with butterfly, the grasshopper and the frog." As a boy, he ate his victuals out of bark-dishes as his playmates did, and he learned from the other boys that

his skin was whiter than theirs. Had he possessed bright red hair or projecting ears, or other unusual features, they also would have told him about that. Indian boys are not so different! As a young warrior, he fought on the French side till the close of the French and Indian war. At this time, being thirty-one years of age, he took unto himself a wife. He visited his father at Albany, hoping to get from him a brass kettle and a rifle for the better supply and service of his new establishment. Across New York and back seems a long journey in a bark canoe for these things. They were indeed distant in any other direction, from his cabin. But there was another matter of greater value than these, and farther from his grasp, shut in as he was, by his Iroquois speech. This was the opinion of a well-informed white man whom he could trust, upon the trend of the times. Therefore he sought his father. He says in effect: "When I left my father he gave me no food to eat on my return, no kettle or rifle, and did not tell me of the trouble even then arising between the colonies and the King." Here we have the real object of his visit.

He took pains a few years after this, at the close of a battle of the Revolution, to capture his father, travelling some distance to effect his purpose. He called him father, assured him of safety, mentioned his former usage, noting especially his withholding the information asked for. Then, he offered to take him home and supply all his future needs, or to furnish a safe escort back. The latter was chosen by the father.

Cornplanter did not think the Iroquois should take part in the Revolution; but as the Six Nations voted otherwise, he went with them. At the close of this war, he espoused the cause of the white settlers. After this he acted with wisdom. Most of the Indians were still violently opposed to the westward extension of the settlements. Cornplanter, by a fine but very effective diplomacy, influenced them to agree quietly to a number of treaties, which saved this part of the State from contention and probable bloodshed. His influence was potent in the treaty which secured the "Triangle" to this State; and again in a treaty by which the Ohio Company secured title to lands from the tribes of the northwest. Some of the Indian representatives, when blamed for their acquiescence, replied that Cornplanter, the greatest Seneca chief, was in favor of their action. He participated in many conferences, always acting like the wise statesman, desiring to preserve peace between the white and the

red men, willing to yield whatever share of his territory might be necessary. This was doubtless the course he decided upon from the very moment when he foresaw the ultimate triumph of the United Colonies. This movement was the culmination of his genius, when the isolated savage, hemmed in by memories of barbarous experiences, suddenly saw the truth as if it were illumined by lightning in the dusk. He hoped that thousands of his descendants and of his mother's race would lead better lives, where now only a few eeked out a miserable existence. He expressed this in part in next to his last interview with Washington, as he asked in a pitiful way for land to be secured to them, that his race may live as the whites do, learn how to till the soil, and learn their reading and writing. He was never a resident of this county, yet he was an important factor of its early settlement. He had friends here. Among these was George Power, who spoke his language fluently and sometimes acted as his interpreter. Colonel McDowell and Colonel Dale were also among his friends. These he sometimes consulted, as well as the commandant at Fort Franklin. His extended services to the settlers when treaties were made excited the jealousy of some of the leaders of the Six Nations, Red Jacket, of his own nation, and the notorious Brant, both encouraged by some of the British officers, until after Wayne's victory. They asserted that he interfered too much in civil affairs. He was a warrior, not a councilor. This was true; and the criticism indicates the extent of their political development. He withdrew from the public life of his people, and retired to spend his old age in his town upon the reservation granted to him by the State. His town was called Jenesadaga, situated on the Allegheny, north of Warren. Here he lived in peace and prosperity, trying to induce habits of thrift among his many children, grandchildren, and retainers, impatient at times with the *vis inertiae* of some, ever exhorting them to temperance, industry and providence. He came from his retirement in 1812 to offer himself and two hundred young warriors to Colonel Dale at Franklin, as an addition to a regiment which was forming in Crawford and Venango counties to go to the defense of Erie. He was anxious to go. It was too bad that he could not. He dispensed a dignified hospitality, graced by his personal service of his guests, even when he was very old. He served dinners to many of his distinguished visitors, consisting of jerked venison and hominy served in Indian style, each one having a pan of hot water which he could

thicken *ad libitum*. He was troubled for taxes. He answered the sheriff, who asserted the necessity of taxes, that the Indians had bad men also whom they took care of themselves without troubling the white man and that the whites should not therefore trouble the Indian. Later, when the officer returned with a posse of riflemen, the chief exhibited a hundred rifles staked near by, and copper faces among the green leaves of the bushes. What a moving picture a warwhoop would have continued, from this introduction! He paid his taxes later, by giving his note, which was not paid. He thought it good script and it was as good as some he had known in the past. What would that bit of paper be worth now to an Historical Society? The State soon exonerated the land from taxes. He died, having lived more than a century, respected for his noble traits of character by great men, discerners of spirits; and by his neighbors generally, a more acid test. He was the noblest Indian chief of our history. To match him in intellect, we should have to come down to our own time, enter the Senate of the United States, where two of his race are seated. Our State honored him by erecting a monument to his memory—the first that a great civilized Commonwealth ever built over the dust of a savage.

Among the simple children of Nature who were bona fide settlers of this county, were two chieftains, of great repute among their people. They were just savages, with all the qualities which distinguished that class raised to the (10-Indian)th power. If, during his active career, either of them had ever shown mercy to helpless women and children, it was doubtless because he put off doing what he might do in order to get more victims for what he intended to do. They were known as Custaloga and Guyasutha.

Custaloga was the leader of all the Delawares in this part of the country. His village, known as Custaloga's Town, was the most important Indian settlement in the territory now known as Venango county. His land was the most fertile in all this region. Washington noted the beauty and extent of the meadows when he crossed there once in December. The abundance of game made it an Indian paradise. He held it doubtless by consent of the Senecas, who, as guardians of the western gate, controlled this region.

Guyasutha was a leading chief of the Senecas, the largest and fiercest of the Six Nations. These two were chosen by Pontiac as his trusted lieutenants to carry out his plans in this State, to exterminate the white settlers. Their

first act was to apply the torch to Fort Venango, after butchering the garrison to the last man, and torturing Lieutenant Gordon for three days. This was in June, 1763. A Seneca Indian related this to Sir William Johnson, some years later.

Next the Senecas appear at Niagara, where through pretense of friendship they managed to allay the suspicions of the troops. They figured here in a number of surprises marked by the extreme of cowardly slaughter. The very enormity of the "Devil's Hole" massacre has made it immortal.

Custaloga was in the meantime at Fort Pitt with his Delawares, and several tribes from the northwest, scourging that section and threatening the garrison with destruction after trying to gain admittance by multiple deceptions. Here he was joined by Guyasutha and his Senecas. Both were at the battle of Bushy Run, which was won by Col. Henry Bouquet. His victory was remarkable. With less than five hundred invalid troops, many so weak that they could not march, he defeated a superior force of savages, fighting in the woods in their native fashion. It is said to be the only victory of the kind, before that time or since, recorded in history. After this battle, the Indians, including Custaloga and Guyasutha, retired to the dense forests of the northwest, where they considered themselves safe from pursuit. There was another "Custaloga's Town" established in this region.

In a short time "Pontiac's and Guyasutha's war," as the settlers termed it, flamed over the borders worse than before. The horrors were indescribable. For hundreds of miles north and south along the border the settlers were wiped out. The survivors fled in terror and misery to the older settlements. Bouquet said in August, 1764, that he feared he could not save York county. However, after great delay in securing men and supplies, Bouquet started through the forest, thought impassable to an army by the natives, and arrived upon the headwaters of the Muskingum late in October, in the very heart of hostile Indian country. Colonel Bradstreet was north of this region with an army, so the savages were caught between the jaws of a trap. Bouquet summoned the Indians to a conference. There came to this meeting, as responsible heads of all the savages engaged in this war, three men —Guyasutha, Custaloga, and the chief of the Shawanoes, accompanied by their orator bringing belts of wampum. Custaloga brought eighteen white people held by his tribes as prisoners to satisfy the demand that all captives

should be returned. Guyasutha and the chief of the Shawanoes each produced a bundle of forty-one sticks, representing their captives, which they would bring next spring. The language was highly figurative, self-laudatory, and as usual meaningless; emphasized by frequent belts and strings of wampum "to open their ears." Bouquet after two days made answer. He gave them no flowers of speech. He told them just what he thought of them. He intimated that he had no faith in them, that they had been a false, thieving, murderous lot, unworthy of confidence. He gave them twelve days to bring in all their captives, including all born of white women, clothed and provisioned to be taken to Fort Pitt. In the meantime he would hold as hostages their chief men until the captives were returned, and till they should afterward find out by treaty with Sir William Johnson the terms of peace. While thus waiting, he sent squads of soldiers to their villages to see that they were getting the prisoners ready for departure. He thus saved a number from death. Over two hundred and forty were recovered at this time from captivity. This concluded Guyasutha's war, with the exception of scattered hostilities. Thus did twenty-five hundred troops round up practically all the Indians of Pennsylvania.

Pontiac has been called "great," the possessor of wide comprehension. His outlook was that of primitive savagery. There was room enough for both Indians and white men. This State has for many years supported in luxury thirty-five times as many people, as the whole number of Indians in the United States in Pontiac's time. Sir William Johnson estimated the number of native warriors from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, south of the Great Lakes, at ten thousand, five hundred men. Pennsylvania alone could have rounded up all the Indians in the country, placed them upon reservations, and held them there until they were civilized or dead. Why did she not do it? Politics. The different parties and sects could not agree upon what should be done, or how or when, or who should do it. While they were thus discussing, the Indians in small parties, but according to a plan worked out by such leaders as Custaloga and Guyasutha, fell upon the borders and wrought amazing destruction. Bouquet said just after Bushy Run that with three hundred additional troops he could clear out all the Indians from Fort Pitt to Lake Erie. It was fifteen months before he could start, giving the savages free havoc for a half-year.

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

## CUSTALOGA'S TOWN

Custaloga's Town was located on French creek some twelve miles above its mouth and near the mouth of Deer creek, upon the land of the late Charles H. Heydrick. Mr. Heydrick a few years before his death wrote as follows:

My farm is one of a number of tracts purchased soon after the Revolution by my grandfather from soldiers of the Pennsylvania Line to whom they had been granted by the Commonwealth in consideration of military services and in pursuance of the act of March 12, 1783. Early in the present century [the nineteenth] my father, the late Doctor Heydrick, made a tour of inspection of these lands and found evidence of occupation by the Indians, some portions of the alluvial "bottom land," the best on the creek, or indeed, anywhere in the whole region—having been cultivated for many years, and other vestiges of the Indian village of Custaloga's Town being still visible. At that time there was living upon an adjoining tract a settler named Martin, who had settled there soon after the remnant of land north and west of the rivers Ohio and Allegheny and Conewango creek, not appropriated to Revolutionary soldiers, or in satisfaction of depreciation certificates, had been thrown open to settlement by the act of April 3, 1792, certainly as early as 1798. One of Martin's sons, called John, Jr., was a bright and, for the time and under the circumstances, an intelligent young man, and claimed to have been intimate with the Indians, and spoke their language.

In 1819, I first visited the place and stopped at Martin's house. While there I found many vestiges of the Indian village, and made many inquiries about it and its people. In answer to my inquiries John Martin, Jr., told me, among other things, that he had assisted in the burial of three Indians on my farm, an idiot boy, "Chets" squaw and a chief whose name he pronounced "Guy-a-soot-er." He said that he made the coffin of "Guy-a-soot-er" and after it was finished the Indians asked him to cut a hole in it that he ("Guyasooter") might "see out." He further said that "they buried all his wealth with him: his tomahawk, gun and brass kettle." Martin pointed out to me the grave of the chief and the spot was always recognized as such by the pioneers of the neighborhood, though I do not remember that any of them except Martin professed to have witnessed the burial. After I came to reside on this farm, Martin repeated his statement about the burial of "Guyasooter's" gun, tomahawk and kettle in the presence of another pioneer who felt unkindly toward him, and the latter made a remark aside, which, while unfavorable to Martin, impliedly corroborated his statement. From all the evidence I had on the subject, much of which has doubtless escaped my recollection, and some of which was probably derived from other sources than Martin, I was so well satisfied that the chief named and others were buried at the place designated by Martin that I have to this day preserved the grove about the reputed graves, and have had it in mind to mark the spot by some permanent memorial.

A pioneer of French Creek township, Mercer county, whose farm adjoined those of Heydrick and Martin, and who was a resident

of that locality in 1804, made the following statement regarding the burial of Guyasutha: "John Martin, Jr., who could converse in the Indian tongue, informed me that he made the coffin and assisted in burying a chief. They placed in the coffin his camp kettle filled with soup, his rifle, tomahawk, knife, trinkets and trophies. I think they called him 'Guyasooter.'"

There has been a uniform and persistent tradition to the effect that he died and was buried at Custaloga's Town, in that neighborhood, since the earliest settlement there. And during all this time, a slight depression in the ground has been pointed out as Guyasutha's grave. Many residents of that part of the country heard the story of his death and burial from the lips of John Martin, Jr., who spent the greater part of his life on the farm next to Custaloga's Town. A tradition repeated without material change for three generations is as good evidence of the truth as written history is. It is so recent that it would be known whether or not it were true.

The evidence is not so clear in regard to the burial place of Custaloga. But it seems probable that he also returned to his old home, when he felt the burden of years heavy upon him, to rest in the hunting ground of his vigorous manhood. There is a tradition to this effect.

For the early settlers, it was indeed fortunate that among their savage enemies, very few were like Custaloga and Guyasutha.

## THE PIONEERS

So far as known, there was no attempt by American citizens to settle the wilderness of northwestern Pennsylvania till after the Revolution. As soon as Indian hostilities quieted down, there was a movement of population in this direction. In the summer of 1787 John and David Mead, of Northumberland county, made a visit to the valley of French creek, evidently looking for suitable territory upon which to begin a settlement. In May, 1788, they returned with seven others, most of whom settled near the present city of Meadville. This was the beginning of the first permanent settlement in this part of the State. It is likely that these pioneers upon their first visit were pleased not only with the land they found, but also by the building of the fort, then nearing completion, at Franklin. The military post would attract settlers not only to its immediate vicinity, but to outlying lands within a radius of several miles. It would serve as a place of

refuge in times of danger, and it did, not long after it was built. But the settlers came in slowly. There was still fear of trouble with the Indians. This fear continued and delayed settlement in other parts of the country, till some years after Wayne's treaty, following his victory in the northwest.

In 1790 the first white man came to make his home in Franklin. His name was George Power. He came first with the soldiers who built Fort Franklin in 1787 and remained here but a short time after the completion of the Fort. He spent the next three years in prospecting, it seems; for he was at Fort Washington, near Cincinnati, for a time, then at Vincennes, Ind. He took time to consider, viewing a number of places, and deliberately fixed upon Franklin as the place in which to spend his life. He was born in Maryland April 10, 1762, and was consequently about twenty-four years old when he was here at first and twenty-eight when he settled here. He was of the stuff of which pioneers, or heroes, or men who achieve success in any line, are composed. He grew by overcoming the difficulties in his path. He mapped his work out in advance. He would supply the wants, in a mercantile way, of the people who had not yet arrived. He prepared for it, erecting a suitable building, laying in a stock of goods, learning the dialects of the natives, and forecasting events by such tidings as came in with outside visitors to the post. He was the entire civil population of the future town for the next four years. During these early days there were many rumors of Indian descents about to be made upon this lonely little station of law in the woods; but Mr. Power was not frightened. He had no more intention of leaving the place than the commandant whose business it was to stay. He selected a lot a little below the Fort, on the bank of French creek, and supplied it with the goods which his frontier life suggested. Some of these would supply the wants of the garrison; but perhaps the larger part would be exchanged for the furs of the Indians, which would find a ready market at Fort Pitt.

When Mr. Power came he was unmarried. On Dec. 30, 1799, he married Margaret Bowman, the sister of the late Andrew Bowman. He built his stone house, that was long considered one of the show places of the town, near the site of his first log cabin. This was on the corner of Otter and Elbow streets, now the location of the dwelling formerly occupied by Judge Trunkey. This house was for a time kept as a hotel and was noted for its generous hospitality to its guests. Mr. Power's books

of accounts are of value historically as fixing the time of residence of numbers in the vicinity which might otherwise be without record. They have an interest, too, in revealing the curious names of some of the Indians of that time, and in showing that Mr. Power thought a good proportion of them trustworthy. Although he was for a number of years the sole settler of the yet unprojected and uncharted settlement, he probably did not find the time heavy in its passage. He had the society of the garrison and of their sometime visitors from the settlements to keep him in touch with the world outside. Then the world in which he lived was an intense one. He became a close student of Indian life while he was learning the various dialects, and had many chances of confirming his judgment of the red men when checking up his account books.

Mr. Power passed a long and useful life in the community of his choice. He died at the home he built, April 2, 1845, in the eighty-third year of his age, respected and honored by all who knew him. He has many descendants in Venango county at present.

The civil population doubled in 1794, when Col. Alexander McDowell joined George Power as a fellow resident. Colonel McDowell was deputy surveyor of district No. 7, west of the Allegheny river and Conewango creek, and located many of the warrants of the Holland Land Company in this and adjoining counties. He was the first magistrate to serve in Venango county, as he was commissioned justice of the peace two years after his arrival. He was also the first postmaster at Franklin, commissioned to that office Jan. 1, 1801. His death occurred Jan. 4, 1816, at the age of fifty-three. His wife survived him for more than fifty years, to the remarkable age of one hundred and three years. Their son, Thomas Skell McDowell, born April 26, 1803, was the first white child born in Franklin.

The next year, 1795, shows the name of Capt. James G. Heron on George Power's ledger. He was a soldier of the Revolution, but was not one of the military establishment here. His family arrived in 1800. He died Dec. 30, 1809. He was the second postmaster of Franklin, one of the first associate judges, and a member of the first board of county commissioners. He brought several slaves with him to this county, being the first owner here of this kind of property.

As already noted, Capt. George Fowler, a British officer, came to this place in 1797, and occupied the Old Garrison in 1799, after the troops evacuated it, when he served as a jus-

tice of the peace. In this year Edward Hale came and established himself as a trader here. Marcus Hulings also came at this time, as his name appears on both Hale's and Power's ledgers in 1797. The oldest tombstone in the Franklin cemetery bears the name of Michael Hulings, died Aug. 9, 1797, aged twenty-seven years, which would clearly indicate that Mr. Hulings brought his family here during this year. Mr. Hulings made periodic trips to Pittsburgh, taking down peltry as the chief portion of his cargo, and bringing back merchandise for the traders. Mr. Hulings is mentioned in a letter from Fort Pitt in 1763 as the owner of a farm in the vicinity of the Fortress. It is probable that the same man took up the business of connecting the two places after settling here. His descendants have been influential in this county ever since.

The families of George Power, Alexander McDowell, James G. Heron, Edward Hale, and Marcus Hulings constituted the population of the county-seat-to-be in 1800. John Bradford, Col. Samuel Dale, William Moore, Samuel Hays, George and Hugh McClelland, William Connely, Nathaniel Cary, David Irvine, Abraham Selders, Andrew Bowman, Alexander McCalmont, and William and James Kinnear, were among the early and prominent residents during the first years of the new century.

While the town, now surveyed, christened and appearing on the map at the State and national capitals, is becoming a vigorous infant village, the pioneer is breaking trails throughout the county. Almost at the same time there were newcomers to the region of Scrubgrass and the valleys of French creek, Sugar creek, Oil creek and Pithole. In 1793-94 two scouts from the settlements on the Kiskeminetas explored the country west of the river. In 1795 James Scott, one of the scouts, returned to that locality, bringing with him several others. Samuel Jolly, James Craig, David Say and James Fearis came to Scrubgrass in 1795. Before the close of the century, William Crawford, Moses Perry, Thomas Perry and others followed. This was the beginning of the emigration from Westmoreland county which added so largely to southern Venango. Rev. Robert Johnson, who preached in the first church building put up in the county, was pastor of Scrubgrass Presbyterian Church, 1803-1817.

In the adjoining township of Clinton, 1796 marks the arrival of Thomas McKee, the first permanent settler, native of Westmoreland county and a surveyor by occupation. He

assisted in locating many of the land claims in this part of the State. To this year belong Matthew Riddle, a veteran of the Revolution; Archibald and Patrick Davidson, from the eastern part of this State; Thomas Baird, one of the early justices; John Vogus, and Patrick McDowell; Maj. Phillip Ghost, a major in the Revolution, and one of the few German settlers in this part of the county, arrived in the same year. In 1797 Patrick Coulter and John Phipps became residents of the township. The Phipps family became prominently identified with the early and later history of the county, political and industrial. John Coulter, a well known early physician, was the son of the pioneer Patrick Coulter. In 1800 John Witherup arrived. He was probably the only native of England among this group of settlers. He became the first sheriff of the county, and contractor for the building of the first courthouse. Among the very early settlers in the valley of Scrubgrass creek are also Benjamin Williams, Alexander Porter, James Hoffman and John Hovis.

The first settlers, so far as known, in Irwin township are Adam Dinsmore and Henry Crull, near the old Pittsburgh road in 1796. In 1797 Isaac and George McMurdy, father and son, settled near the line of Butler county. They came from Huntingdon county. In the same year came Richard Monjar, who was the first shoemaker of the township, from the State of Maryland. Thomas Bullion was an early settler, and was the proprietor of the first distillery. He possessed an uncommon individuality among a people of marked characteristics. In 1798 were added to the settlers of the township William Davidson, an early constable, who sacrificed his life in the line of his duty; James McClaran, who was appointed one of the first trustees of the county, in the act erecting the county; and Jonathan Morris, from Lancaster county. It was in 1799 that one Adam Dinsmore persuaded four others to come. These were William and Hugh McManigal, David Martin and John Crain, natives of the North of Ireland, settled for a while in Mifflin county before coming here. Hugh McManigal raised a company for the defense of Erie in 1813—a direct outcome of Adam Dinsmore's good works. Other settlers came into the township: Edward McFadden, from Luzerne county, in 1799; William Adams, in 1800; Moses Bonnell, Robert Jones and Robert Burns, in 1802, and John Bullion, in 1803.

The movement of population into the valley of French creek began at the same time as the

settlement of the southern townships. John Martin was the first to arrive in 1796. He came from Maryland and his tract was three miles above Utica. He had a ferry known still as Martin's Ferry, on the old Pittsburgh road, at Custaloga's Town. He knew a good many of the Indians. A bird of passage, arrived about this time, named John Chapman, did not settle, but after resting passed on. Others recorded before 1800, were John Gordon and John Cooper, 1797 or 1798; a native of Ireland, William Duffield, in 1798, from Center county; John Lindsay, noted as building the first mill on French creek in the county; Welden Adams, a man well known in county affairs; Thomas and Alexander Russell, father and son, from Huntingdon county. In 1800, from eastern Pennsylvania, came Hugh and John L. Hasson, James and Robert Greenlee, Peter Patterson, William Patterson, and William Vogan; Jacob Runninger, in 1801; John Hanna, 1802; and James Gilliland, in 1804. Other early settlers at somewhat later dates were John Temple, Seth Jewel, William Evans and James Gibson.

In Sandy Creek and Victory townships, the first settlements were along the line of the old Pittsburgh road. In 1796 Samuel Patterson sold his cabin, in which he, a bachelor, had lived a year or two by hunting and fishing, to John Dewoody, who left Ireland at twenty-one, resided briefly in Lancaster county and Pittsburgh, then settled here. Another welcome settler, from Erin, was Patrick Munson, a soldier of the Revolution who came to Sandy Creek township in 1797. Probably the first mill on Sandy creek was built in 1798 by James Stevens. The earliest settlers near Franklin, were James Martin, first clerk to the county commissioners, from Maryland in 1796, who planted one of the first orchards here, to his lasting credit; Thomas Brandon, from Cumberland county, who soon changed to Cranberry; and William Dewoody, from Ireland, who also came in 1796. The earliest settlers in Victory township, after John Dewoody, were James Major, Isaac Bennett, Robert Hyner, Daniel McMillin and John Lyons. In 1803 George McClelland settled near the village of Springville; he is better known in connection with the life of Franklin, to which place he removed in a few years.

Samuel Gildersleeve and William Whann were first in that part of Mineral township which was formerly a part of Sandy Creek; the former was from New Jersey and settled on the Mercer road; the latter was from Northumberland county and built on South Sandy, after-

ward going to Ohio. Both came in 1797. Other pioneers of Mineral were Archibald Henderson, of Allegheny county; Shadrach Simcox, from Maryland; Andrew Smith, of Washington county; Daniel Crain, of New Jersey, and Jacob Rice.

The account of the settlement of French creek already given was confined to the township only. Within the present limits of Sugar Creek, north of French creek, the pioneers were Mr. Bowman, father of Andrew Bowman of Franklin, who came in 1795; Ebenezer Roberts, who worked on the present poorhouse farm, in 1796; Angus McKinzie, a Scotchman, who came from Pittsburgh; William Cousins, one of the garrison of Fort Franklin who remained here; John Rogers and Luther Thomas, who came in 1796; and John McCalmont, from Center county, who with his sons Thomas, Robert, James, Alexander, John and Joseph came in 1803. Another son, Henry, did not come till 1817.

In Canal township, the earliest settlement was in the vicinity of Utica, by Hugh and Alexander Johnston, father and son, from the North of Ireland, in 1796. Among the earliest permanent settlers were also John and James Foster; Thomas Smiley; Jacob Whitman; William Brown, a veteran of the Revolution from New York, who had a well known hotel at Hannaville for many years; James McCuen, prior to 1805; John Hastings, John Duffield, Samuel and Alexander Ray, Jacob Lupher, John Cooper; William and John Boughner, W. P. Clough, William and David Gilmore, and John Mawhinney.

In Jackson township, Robert Beatty, who located on "the prairie," in the extreme southern part, was the first white settler in Sugar creek valley between the mouth of the stream and Crawford county line. A Revolutionary soldier, William Cooper, settled at Cooperstown, 1797. Samuel Plumer from Allegheny county lived in this county from 1800 to 1810, when he returned to Allegheny county. He is remembered as the father of Arnold Plumer, who was born in this township. Other early settlers were: James McCurdy, Revolutionary soldier; Samuel Small from Bucks county; and James Alexander, John McFadden, Robert Mason, William McIntosh, John Bleakley and John Gibson.

Although an interior section, remote from the water highway by which it was usually reached, Oakland township was settled as early as the contiguous sections. In 1797 Lawrence Dempsey, from Ireland, settled at Dempseytown, coming here from Center county. He was

the father of David Dempsey, assemblyman, 1814, and of Peter Dempsey, founder of Dempseytown. Three arrived in 1798, Robert McElhaney from Westmoreland county, William McClain and James Gordon; a number in 1800, among whom were Jonah Reynolds, from New York State; Charles Stevenson, Revolutionary soldier; William Morehead; Edward Patchel, for whom Patchel run is named; and James Mason, Northumberland county; Francis Curtis, Revolutionary soldier; George Kean and his brother William. Alexander McCormick and Alexander Fowler came in 1802; William Hays and William Reed in 1803; Phillip Keys, Revolutionary veteran, and Philip Walls, in 1804; John Fetterman, 1805.

In Oil creek valley, James Ricketts was the first settler. He was a professional hunter, with great experience on the frontier. Passing the mouth of Oil creek, he went to Petroleum Center, turned eastward and built a cabin on the headwaters of Cherry run. There was then no other white man in Cornplanter township, no roads or fences. Intending to remain so long as the hunting was good, he spent his life in the vicinity of his first cabin. A number of his descendants remain. He came in 1795. The first settlers on Oil creek in Cornplanter township were, in order from the Allegheny river, Francis Halyday, Hamilton McClintock, Francis Culbertson, Ambrose Rynd, Francis Buchanan, James and Robert Storey, and Francis McClintock. The McClintocks were from Lancaster county. Ambrose Rynd came from Ireland in 1799, coming to Venango in 1800 accompanied by his son, John, a well known and useful citizen. Francis Halyday in 1803 settled in Oil City (Third Ward). The first to settle in the central and eastern part of Cornplanter were the Allender family, who gave their name to a small stream in the northeastern part of the township; Thomas Prather, from Franklin county; and the McFates, Lambs, Morrisons and Shaws.

The Pithole settlement was among the first. In 1796 Andrew McElhaney came here, but on account of Indian troubles returned to Center county. The Dawson family, who were probably the earliest adherents of Methodism in the county; Hugh and Michael McGerald, probably the first Catholics in the county; and Isaac Conneley, father of George W. Conneley, prothonotary, were among the earliest settlers on the headwaters of Pithole creek in Allegheny township. Asper Cornwell came in 1819; David Dunham, in 1821; Ebenezer Byles, in 1825; John Tennent, in 1826; and John Lamb, in 1827.

In Oil Creek township Andrew and Daniel Fleming settled in 1796, the earliest in the township. Jacob Richards and Abraham Sowers were there several years later, but neither remained long. James Shreve, from Fayette county; John Lytle, a native of Ireland; William Poor, from Massachusetts, and James Miller, on whose land Miller Farm was built, were early residents in various parts of the township. Abraham Lovell was at the site of Pleasantville in 1820, and Aaron Benedict in 1821.

On the opposite side of Oil creek, at Cherrytree, William Reynolds was the first settler, in 1797. He was an Englishman, and settled at Cherrytree village. In 1798 James Tuthill, from eastern Pennsylvania, and John Strawbridge, from the Susquehanna valley, arrived. Four Irwin brothers came to Cherrytree in 1800: Samuel, first postmaster in the township, and father of Judge Richard Irwin; John, associate judge of Venango county, 1805-1838; James; and Ninian, a member of the first board of county commissioners. They came from Union county. Thomas Hamilton and four sons, James (father of John Hamilton, second sheriff of the county), Thomas, Hugh and Archibald, arrived in 1801, and in the same year Elial Farr came from New England, and Henry Prather from Eastern Pennsylvania. Of several German families, those of George Tarr, Andrew Coover and Jacob Casper were the most prominent. Elisha Archer came in 1801; Elijah Stewart, in 1802; Manus McFadden and Edward Griffin, in 1803 and 1802, respectively; John Stiver, William Robert Curry and Alexander Davidson, prior to 1805; James Alcorn, in 1811, and Joseph Breed, in 1818.

In the extreme northwestern part of the county, Benjamin August was the first settler. He was the only Russian known to have been among the pioneers. He settled in Plum township about 1798. Jacob Jennings, a blacksmith, located in Bradleytown in 1800, and Samuel Proper arrived from Schoharie county, N. Y., in 1801.

The first settler of Eagle Rock, in President township, was Patrick McCrea. He came in 1797, and was the earliest settler on the Allegheny between Franklin and Warren. He was from Ireland, held a commission in the British army, and was a man of education. John Henry, also from Ireland, came to the county in 1798 and settled at Henry's Bend in 1802. Here he stayed till his death, 1858, at the age of eighty-seven. Samuel Rhoads came in 1804, taking lands at Henry's Bend, in same town-

ship. In 1813-14 he sold to Francis Culbertson. Robert Elliott settled at the mouth of Hemlock creek, upon a tract embracing the site of President village, at a later date.

In the part east and south of the Allegheny river, the country was almost uninhabited for ten years after other parts of the county contained a considerable population. In Richland township the early settlers were Moses and Andrew Porter, Johnson McGinnis, Samuel Stewart and John Kerr, within a distance of several miles from the river; and James Say, John Donaldson, John Bell, William Nickle, William Adams, Daniel O'Neil, Samuel Huston, Alexander Sullinger, James Downing, John and James Levier, John McDonald, Henry Mays, Andrew Weaver, George Myers, Robert Criswell, Abraham Persing and several members of the Karns family.

In Rockland township, it is current tradition that the first settler was John Watt, from Butler county, in 1809, and that Andrew Maitland came, in the same year, also from that locality. John Sullinger, Revolutionary soldier, from Westmoreland, secured a tract here in 1805, which he occupied in 1813. The first improvement at Davis' Corners was made by James Crawford. In 1815 John Donaldson came from Butler county. Matthias and John Stover, Peter Lovell, Enoch Battin, John Hetzler, John and David Jolly were the pioneers at Freedom; William McClatchey, William Craig, the Graham family, Abraham Witherup, Daniel McMillin, and William Hill, at different points on the Allegheny river; David and Daniel Smith, William, Samuel and Joseph Ross, near Davis' Corners; John Haggerty, John Prior, Silas Brown and John McDonald, in the eastern part of the township.

Cranberry township has no record of settlement prior to 1807, when Joel Sage located on the stream since called Sage run. The first settlers of this extensive township were along the river, beginning at the mouth of East Sandy, in the following order: Samuel Lindsey, — Thomas, John Seidels, Andrew Downing, Isaac Smith, Samuel Howe and Joel Sage. The Brandons—John, William, James and Elliott, from Cumberland county; William Dickson, Center county; Alexander Strain, Ephraim Turk and Samuel Culbertson, from Butler county, and Zelotus Jewel, New York State, were pioneers near Salina; James Crawford from Rockland township, Joseph Kennedy from Cumberland county, James Thompson, James Moorhead, John McCool and Cornelius Houser, at "The Meadows"; James Eaton, Michael White, Michael Frawley, Matthew

Gibbon and Joseph Gillman, on the State road within a few miles of Franklin; John McCurry, Nicholas Lake, Silas Tibbitts, William Stewart, William Craig, Constantine Daugherty, William Allison, Samuel McKinney, John McBride and Hutchinson Borland, vicinity of Salem City; and Jacob Zeigler, William Prior, Peter Smith and Orren Boyle, on Susquehanna Waterford turnpike, near East Brady.

In Pinegrove township, the honor of first settlement is ascribed to John Hicks and Ebenezer Kingsley. H. G. Spofford came in 1817, and effected the first substantial improvements. The first permanent settler was Samuel Powell, July 19, 1818, from Albany, N. Y. The Stover family, from Maryland, were the first residents of Centerville, and Marvin Perry, a county commissioner at an early date, was a pioneer in the southwestern part of the township. Among others in this section were the Gibsons, Hales, Whitneys, Dimonds, Gayetts and Schwabs.

On the assessment books of 1805, the year the county was separately organized, the taxables of the townships at that time were given as follows:

*Allegheny Township*.—Alexander Allender, John Anderson, Thomas Anderson, John Blood, Henry Boner, John Boner, John Buck, Thomas Boyd, Felix Campbell, William Chapple, John Conoway, William Cooper, Francis Culbertson, James Davidson, Thomas Davidson, James Dawson, Thomas Dawson, Daniel Dougherty, Andrew Fleming, James Fleming, John Fleming, Sarah Fleming, Samuel Fleming, Henry Gates, Charles Gordon, Michael Graham, James Green, Joel Green, Samuel Gregg, Daniel Guinn, John Hamilton, Richard Hamilton, John Hardy, John Henry, John Hicks, Moses Hicks, John Hinds, Alexander Holeman, Charles Holeman, Eli Holeman, Tabitha Holeman, Benjamin Huffman, Joseph Huff, Roland Hunter, John Kerr, Andrew Kinnear, David Kinnear, William Kinnear, Ebenezer Kingsley, James Lamb, John Lytle, William Lytle, Cornelius Mellon, William Middleton, William Miles, Andrew Miller, Thomas McCaman, Daniel McCaslin, James McCaslin, Joseph McCaslin, James McConnell, John McConnell, Michael McCrea, Patrick McCrea, Alexander McElhaney, Robert McFate, Barney McGentry, Hugh McGerald, Michael McGerald, Margaret McGrady, William Neill, John Nelson, Thomas Nelson, Henry O'Bril, Samuel Patterson, Abraham Prather, Thomas Prather, Thomas H. Prather, Arthur Reidhard, Samuel Rhoads, James Riley, Jacob Richards, James Ricketts, John Ryan, Jesse

Sage, Noah Sage, George Sampson, John Siggins, William Siggins, George Simonton, Robert Simonton, Thomas Simonton, James Shreve, Abraham Sowers, Chauncey Stanley, John Stewart, Walter Stewart, John Storm, Alexander Thompson, John Thompson, Lewis Thompson, William Tripp, George Tubbs, Barbara Valentine, William Watson, Robert Watson, James Walker, John Wilkins, Thomas Wilson.

*Irwin Township*.—James Adams, Welden Adams, William Adams, Jacob Allen, Philip Allen, Andrew Allison, John Applegate, George Armstrong, Samuel Atkinson, Robert Atwell, Aaron Austin, Moses Austin, Ernest Baker, John Baker, William Baker, Thomas Baird, John Barron, George Bartlett, Isaac Bennett, John Black, Thomas Black, Robert Blaine, David Blair, John Blair, Matthew Blair, John Bonner, John Bradford, Thomas Brandon, Timothy Breece, David Brown, John Bullion, Thomas Bullion, Moses Bonnell, William Burns, Robert Calvert, Daniel Camp, William Curtis, George Carson, Peter Cole, Daniel Cooper, Elias Cooper, Samuel Cooper, William Cooper, Patrick Coulter, William Courtney, Caleb Crane, Martin Crigher, Robert Crawford, William Crawford, James Craig, Henry Crull, Alexander Culbertson, John Culbertson, James Darraugh, William Darraugh, Archibald Davidson, James Davidson, Patrick Davidson, William Davidson, Benjamin Davis, William Davis, Hugh Derumple, George Dewoody, John Dewoody, William Dewoody, Adam Dinsmore, William Dixon, John Donaldson, Robert Donaldson, Thomas Donaldson, John Duffield, William Duffield, John Eakin, William Eakin, Samuel Eakin, William Evans, James Fearis, John Ferron, William Fletcher, James Fleming, Matthew Fleming, James Foster, George Fowler, John Fritz, Martin Fritz, Craft Ghost, Phillip Ghost, Samuel Gildersleeve, Brice Gilmore, David Gilmore, James Glenn, John Gordon, Alexander Graham, James Graham, Robert Graham, Thomas Graham, William Graham, James Greenlee, Robert Greenlee, Samuel Grimes, Edward Hale, James Hall, Thos. Hamilton, Ebenezer and John Hanna, Hugh Hasson, Saml. Hathaway, Simeon Hathaway, John Hays, Samuel Hays, William Hays, James G. Heron, William Hill, Adam Hoffman, James Hoffman, Michael Hoffman, Philip Hoffman, William Hood, Marcus Hullings, John Irwin, Patrick Jack, Thomas Jacob, Robert Jamison, Solomen Jennings, Seth Jewel, Robert Johnson, Samuel Jolly, Thomas Jones, William Jones, Robert Jones, John Ire-

land, William 'Irwin, John Karns, R. Thomas Kennedy, George Kring, William Larrimer, James Leslie, Samuel Lindsay, John Lindsay, Johnathan Luce, James Lynn, William Lynn, William Lyons, David Martin, James Martin, John Martin, William Martin, Patrick Means, Thomas Milford, William Milford, William Minter, James Mitchell, Robert Mitchell, Richard Monjar, Samuel Monjar, John Morrison, Patrick McAvey, James McClaran, John McClaran, Thomas McClaran, George McClelland, David McConaughy, Thomas McCormick, Hugh McCutcheon, Alexander McDowell, James McDowell, Nathan McDowell, Patrick McDowell, Miles McEib, Edward McFadden, Philip McKay, Thomas McKee, William McKee, Hugh McManigal, Alexander McMichael, Daniel McMillin, John McMillin, Isaac McMurdy, Alexander McQuiston, John McQuiston, Sarah McTear, John Nelson, James Nicholson, Edward Patchel, James Patchel, Moses Perry, John Phipps, Nathan Phipps, Richard Pope, Alexander Porter, Hugh Porter, George Power, Dennis Pursel, Daniel Rankin, John Ray, James Ray, Samuel Ray, Joseph Reddick, Jacob Rice, Matthew Riddle, Jonathan Riggs, Isaac Robertson, William Robertson, Samuel Robb, Jacob Runninger, Margaret Russell, Thomas Russell, William Russell, David Say, Adam Scott, James Scott, Robert Scott, Wm. Scott, Abraham Selders, Robert Selders, William Shannon, Augustus Shaw, Anthony Shirkley, John Sidell, Shadrach Simcox, John Sloan, William Sloan, Andrew Smith, Joseph Smith, William Smith, John Stephens, William Stoops, Michael Stufflet, Samuel Stufflet, Philip Surrena, Reuben Sutton, Richard Sutton, Stephen Sutton, Aaron Taylor, Adam Taylor, James Taylor, Frances Tracy, Israel Tuthill, Jacob Vaughn, William Valentine, Simon Vanosdale, John Van Siebel, Salisbury Vincent, John Walter, Peter Walter, Daniel Wasson, John Whann, William Whann, James White, John Wilson, Benjamin Williams, Jesse Williams, Levi Williams, John Witherup, Andrew Woodruff, John D. Wood, John Wooderson, Lewis Wright, Samuel Wylie.

*Sugarcreek Township*.—Joseph Allen, Samuel Allen, John Andrews, Elisha Archer, John Archer, John Armstrong, James Arthur, Robert Arthur, Benjamin August, Robert Beatty, James Boal, Francis Boal, Andrew Bowman, James Bowman, John Bowman, Joseph Bowman, William Brandon, George Brison, John Brookmire, Francis Buchanan, Nathaniel Cary, Andrew Campbell, John Carter, Francis Carter, Jacob Casper, William

Christy, Hugh Clifford, Frederick Coffman, Henry Coffman, Isaac Connely, William Connely, Andrew Coover, Jacob Coover, Samuel Cousins, Thomas Cousins, William Cousins, William Crain, Philip Cutchall, John Cully, Samuel Dale, Joshua Davis, Alexander Davidson, Yost Deets, Simon Deacon, Peter Dempsey, William Derman, Michael Diven, Robert Dickson, William Dreiffs, Robert Elliott, Elial Farr, Daniel Fleming, Ross Foster, Alexander Fowler, James Gordon, Patrick Gordon, John Gregg, Samuel Gregg, Edward Griffin, Barnabas Griffin, Edward Hale, Archibald Hamilton, Hugh Hamilton, James Hamilton, Thomas Hamilton, John Hays, William Hays, James Henry, Francis Halyday, James Hulings, Marcus Hulings, Samuel Hulings, Robert Huston, George Ingram, James Irwine, John Irwin, Ninian Irwin, Samuel Irwin, Jacob Jennings, Alexander Johnston, Hugh Johnston, Robert Johnston, William Johnston, George Kean, John Kelly, Thomas Kelly, Robert Kelso, Philip King, Robert Martin, David Martin, James Mason, Joseph Mercer, James Miller, William Moorhead, John Murphy, John McClain, William McClain, Francis McClintock, Mary McCullom, David McCombs, John McCombs, William McCombs, James McCormick, Mary McCormick, Alexander McDowell, Robert McElhaney, Morris McFadden, Neal McFadden, David McGeehan, John Nelson, Y. Nicholas, Isaac Paine, William Pastoris, Edward Patchel, James Patchel, Samuel Plumer, Henry Prather, Joseph Proper, Samuel Proper, Dennis Pursel, John Ray, Samuel Ray, William Reed, John Reynolds, Lydia Reynolds, Jonah Reynolds, William Reynolds, Jacob Rice, Susannah Ridgway, Ebenezer Roberts, John Rodgers, James Ross, Richard Ross, James Russell, Ambrose Rynd, John Rynd, Noah Sage, Robert Semple, James Shaw, Hugh Shaw, Robert Shaw, Charles Stevenson, Andrew Stewart, Elijah Stewart, John Stewart,

John Stiver, James Story, Robert Story; Christian Sutley, George Sutley, Robert Sutley, George Tarr, Luther Thomas, John Todd, Elizabeth Tuthill, James Tuthill, John Tuthill, William Tuthill, Isaac Walls, Jacob Witman, John Wilson, Peter Wilson, Thomas Wilson, William Valentine.

This list of settlers is quite remarkable. When it is taken into consideration that from time immemorial the county had been simply the hunting ground of prehistoric savages, that there were no roads, bridges or fences while the early pioneers were coming, and very few even in 1800, the rate of settlement is surprising. In 1790, one settler; 1794 shows a total of two; 1795 adds not more than ten or twelve, making a total of a dozen young families. But in the next half decade they came each year in multiples of the preceding one. It should also be remembered that in order to people Venango county there were no companies of settlers formed and outfitted to settle the wilds, township at a time, or, as the eastern colonists would say, "to make plantations." Our settlers came singly or in twos or threes. Only in one instance was so large a number as twenty-five induced to locate in the same vicinity, so that only a mile or two of atmosphere separated near neighbors. It was simply an irresistible impulse that touched the soul of a whole people to found better homes, larger lives. One settler in 1790; another in 1794; thirty, perhaps, in 1795; and a total of one thousand, one hundred and thirty in 1800.

The large proportion of taxables among these people is very significant. There were few slackers among them. They improved their holdings. They possessed the homely virtues good for homes. The result of their work will help unnumbered children through all the years. But their great gift to the world following them is found in their attitude toward their own present duty, the example of their lives.

## CHAPTER II

### TOPOGRAPHY AND SOIL

#### THE WORK OF THE ALLEGHENY RIVER—THE GLENS—ELEVATIONS—GEOLOGY—VICINITY OF OIL CITY—OIL CREEK—FRENCH CREEK—SUGAR CREEK—AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES

Venango county may be described as a rectangle with the northeast corner, and the opposite diagonal corner, truncated. The cutting line in both cases takes away from the northern or southern boundary line about one-third of its indicated length. On the north, the county is met by Crawford and Warren counties; on the east, by Forest and Clarion; on the south, by Butler, and on the west, by Mercer. Crawford county also touches the angles of the broken line on the northwest, which resemble the jutting corners of four-hundred-acre tracts. A prominent county official once said that this line looked like a "pair of stairs." Within these boundaries are inclosed six hundred and sixty-one square miles. The area is not large. It is a little less than one eighth of the territory granted to William Penn by James II to discharge a debt of eighty thousand dollars—one of the best bargains ever made by an English king for his name and for his people.

#### THE WORK OF THE ALLEGHENY RIVER

The surface of Venango county is quite level, or rolling only into low hills. It is, in fact, a plateau, elevated at its northern extremity 1,550 feet and at its southern limit 1,475 feet above sea level. It thus has a dip toward the southwest of about two feet to the mile. The surface, however, is cut by the Allegheny river and its tributary streams not quite through the top soil to the gravel, but continued deep into the rock strata below. The work of these streams has been going on long—before Columbus sailed from Spain, before the prehistoric Indian race appeared, before the age of man, in the early infancy of vertebrate life. The Ohio discharged its waters into an interior arm of the ocean at about where its mouth now is, while the upper Mississippi valley was still submerged. This, at least, is the conclusion of Dana and of other geologists. The upper part of a continental

river is the older part. The Allegheny is older than the Mississippi. It is also probably the oldest river west of the Allegheny mountains except the Niagara. The time that it has been cutting into the rocks of Venango county can not be measured by the years of our well finished world; but only by the aeons while the continents were emerging and growing to their present size and shape, and arranging their divine materials.

The river has had a number of names. The Delawares called it the Alligani Sipu, from a tribe which they believed once dwelt upon its banks. A London publisher spoke of the tribe as the Allegans. Lewis Evans in a map published in 1755 calls the river the Allegan. The Senecas, true to their colorful fancy, spoke of it as the O-he-u, which name the French adopted, connecting it with the Ohio, translating the word literally as "La Belle" Rivière, or The Beautiful River. The Senecas were right in naming it for an inspiration, rather than for some insect tribe. It was beautiful then as it is now. But from then to now, is only from the dawn of history to the present, scarce one swing of the pendulum after ages of the ceaseless work of the unknown river.

#### THE GLENS

Steep, deep valleys, rather gorges and glens, cut into the solid rock, are frequent near the river. The most remarkable of these are cut by the creeks or runs nearly to the depth of the river's bed. In some cases, they are narrow and have perpendicular walls of rock strata hundreds of feet deep. There are many changes of scenes in each gulf. Perhaps a side stream enters part way up, making a waterfall; or one from near the top may come down in a series of falls, or as a long ribbon becoming feathery near the end. Where the floor of the glen rises sharply a cascade sings cheerfully from its active pools. Dripping from the walls

are mineral springs, chalybeate and white-sulphur, cold and sparkling. Undoubtedly all the various rock waters found near Monarch Park have outlets in the glens of the county near the river. The flora of the glen is extensive and interesting, some of it rare.

The birdlife is probably as abundant here as in any other locality of the country. The river valley is an old route of the birds coming up with the spring from the South. Even those going westward come up pretty well to the north before turning toward the West. No pen can do justice to these glens. They are probably known to few. The botanist, bird lover, trout fisher or student of nature may know some of them. Not many of them are named. In Venango county there are a dozen or more of these gorges that are easily the equals in quiet loveliness of the famous glens of Watkins and Havana in New York, and superior to them in stately beauty and in the abundance and multiplicity of wild life. In the waters here is still living an ugly little crocodilian called commonly the "water dog," the pest of bait fishermen. In living forms and fossil remains, his ancestors extend back to a former geologic period. His presence here is a good indication of the great age of this river, that it once discharged into the vast interior sea before some of the present strata emerged. He is named for the Allegheny and is peculiar to it. Agassiz calls him the oldest example of one type of life upon the earth. He may be found at the bottom of any of the gorges, making all other animal life beautiful by contrast. He lives upon dead fish and still animals, or parts, which he swallows whole and backs out, not minding fish hooks. Among animals his shape is like a bad short dream among cheerful thoughts. But his message is from afar.

Some fine examples of scenery typical of the glens of Venango county may be found near the mouth of Upper Two-Mile run and up this run for four or more miles, till the road leaves the glen near the top, at the small solitary church known as Forest Chapel. The rocks are stratified in varying colors, played upon by lights and shades, rising in perpendicular walls perhaps four hundred feet. They are not monotonous; they change often. They can not be described, but they will be felt. They are adorned by large pictures, hundreds of feet in extent, made up of myriads of living and moving tints, millions of greens with spots of all colors up to white, in May and June. It is a mass of life becoming many different pictures as the days go by, changing lights with every cloud. Perhaps the number of these gorges

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reduces the power to rightly see them. If there were in the county only one or two of them, which could be shut in by gateways bearing the Dantesque legend, "Abandon, all ye, a half dollar, who hope to enter here"; while to the interior walls were hung rickety stairways leading to a high side-gorge where Lightning Chief and Star Heels lived concealed from their parent-enemy-chieftains; or to the top of "lovers' leap" named "Caw"—"Coo" from the first lovers; or to natural rock shelves affording views of the falls, while waiting for rainbows; or to the spring basins with glasses under their drips, crested white, black, or brown, with the sulphur, iron or iodine in the waters; and, finally, if photo-postal cards and printed legends were as the forest leaves in number, would all these things add to the lure of the glens? No. Stronger is the low direct appeal of the beauty and the mystery of the gorges, whose voices of the dim past whisper in their aisles to the one who goes out of doors for a while.

#### ELEVATIONS

Approaching Venango county by the ordinary lines of travel, at Brocton, N. Y., the track of the Pennsylvania Railroad is 687 feet above sea level. The figures which will be quoted as track elevations are in all cases those determined by the civil engineers of the railways. They are obtained by running levels from a point at sea level, Sandy Hook in some cases. From this point lines are run in different directions through the spots where elevations are recorded, to a meeting place, whence each line returns to the place of beginning along the other line. Errors are thus detected and eliminated. Rising rapidly by the steep terraces of Lake Erie's old basin, at Prospect a few miles out the track is 1,365 feet above sea level, a rise of 678 feet. This is near the top of the basin; the lake is in full view. There is now a descent for a few miles to Mayville, 1,314 feet. This is only a few feet above the surface of Chautauqua Lake. Geologists say that the basin of Chautauqua Lake was scooped out by a glacier which also formed a part of the valley by which the Conewango reaches the river. It moved for a little along the river's brim, bringing material for the meadows below Warren. From the leavings of this same small glacier, probably a fair-sized bed of fine sandy gravel was washed down the river and dropped into a wide deep depression across its bed, about two miles above Oil City. The gravel is a perfect filter, self clean-

ing by the action of the water it purifies. Into this bed, at some distance from the river, are sunk the artesian wells that give to Oil City its unfailing abundance of pure water. It is said there is no other bed like it from Warren to the Ohio. The depression in the bed of the river has not yet been accounted for; it may have been produced by the elevation preceding the ice cap. This glacier was a small one—only an arm or a finger of the large ice body at work farther northwest, which reached out and did some good. From Mayville the track rises to 1,628 feet at Summerdale; this is on the western rim of the coal basin of Pennsylvania. At Corry the level is 1,375 feet; low hills appear. The road soon enters the valley of Oil creek, and still descending, the track reaches the level of 1,193 feet at Titusville. The hills here appear to be and are three hundred to three hundred and fifty feet high. This is in the Allegheny valley; the hills above are at the level of the valley plateau. At Miller Farm, five miles farther down Oil creek, the track has dropped fifty-nine feet to 1,134; at Petroleum Center, the track elevation is 1,085 feet; Rynd Farm, 1,039 feet; Rouseville, 1,035 feet. At Oil City the elevation is 1,004 feet; 189 feet below Titusville, an average drop of eleven feet to the mile. As the river is approached the hills seem to increase in height.

Up the Allegheny fifteen miles, at President, where river and track enter the county, the elevation is 1,036 feet, showing an up-grade of two and one-eighth feet to the mile. At Warren the elevation is 1,195 feet, almost identical with that at Titusville, and the hills at the two places appear equally high. Down the Allegheny from Oil City, at Franklin, eight miles distant, the track level is 985 feet, at Emlenton, forty miles, and southern extremity of the county, 900 feet, making the drop from Oil City to Emlenton two and one-third feet per mile. At Pittsburgh the level is 737 feet, 267 feet below Oil City, an average of two feet per mile for the whole distance. The river shows throughout the same features. The high banks have corresponding strata on each side. There are many turns. The river flows during its course toward every point of the compass. Back from the banks, the high land is quite level along the top. A like description applies to the Ohio. Its course is crooked; its flood plain is wider, its rocky banks have been cut into deeper gorges by the strong streams that have dug in. There is the high plateau back from the banks, though at its mouth the land is worn away for miles on either side. The grade varies; but the average fall is only

nine inches for each of the 967 miles of its length. The Indians and the French were right in giving the two rivers one name.

The Miche Sepe, Mississippi, or "Father of Waters," as the red men felt it, is similar. Its flood plain is from twenty to eighty miles wide, covered with a floor of alluvia one hundred feet thick. Through this the river cuts its way in curves from the Ohio to the gulf, a distance of five hundred miles straight, but as the water travels, it is 1,097 miles. The old banks along this stretch are from two hundred to four hundred feet high and consist of strata some geologic ages younger than those of the Allegheny. The mighty stream, 3,000 to 4,500 feet wide, runs close to the bluffs on the east side frequently, and once it crosses to the opposite shore, in its course below the Ohio. Back from the precipitous shores, to the east and to the west extends the plateau of the valley. The banks and high land stop at the gulf. But the flood plain of the river extends many miles out into the water, and its greatest width is 150 miles. This is the Delta. It has an area of 12,400 square miles. Near its beginning, a number of arms or branches strike out from the main current on both sides, and as independent rivers find their way through the lowlands to the gulf. The Mississippi continues centrally among its offshoots to the end of the Delta, where it mingles its muddy stream with the clearer water. It has four mouths or "passes" which are named and marked to guide the navigators. Above the gulf, the flood plains or bottom lands of the river extend for five hundred miles with an average width of forty miles. They are subject, also, to overflow, and consequent annual enrichment. Below the Ohio the river has doubtless formed forty thousand square miles of wonderfully fertile land. This is the gift of the Mississippi, as Egypt is of the Nile. It is the summary of a vast system of drainage. The finish is in the Gulf of Mexico, where the river, besides the larger amount left along thousands of miles of water courses, rolls in at the end enough sediment every year to cover two hundred and forty-seven square miles one foot deep. This alluvium is collected and carried by the busy waters from all the territory between the Alleghenies and the Rocky mountains, one and a quarter million square miles of surface.

The topography of Venango county is not strange, or unrelated to other things. It is part of a comprehensive plan of building a continent, and of furnishing it with working rivers by which dead organisms and the pulverized rocks from all of earth's strata, even from the

oldest mountain tops, shall be assembled as if by an "increasing purpose," for the growth of higher forms of life.

#### GEOLOGY

Passing along the valley of the Allegheny, or any of the valleys entering it in Venango county, it becomes evident that the rock formations are stratified and that the streams, especially the larger ones, are very crooked. They pass often from one side of their valleys to the other. The arrangement into strata and the frequent change of the stream from bank to bank are closely related and have important results. About four miles up one of the runs which enter the river, the water is beginning to wear into the bed rock. Just above this point the stream turns to the right toward a higher stony bank, which it wears away for a short distance, and bores into it, leaving a curve at the lower end of the cut which from the start turns some of the water, and finally all of it, toward the left. This is known as surely as if the process had been watched, though part of the bank has been cut away. It is seen in the gradually deepening water toward the left, by the bar of pebbles and dirt formed against the right bank and by the curve toward the left at the end of this bar. The stream now runs quite rapidly pressing against the left bank, which is a nearly upright low wall of rocks lying in beautiful horizontal strata, a hard sandstone on top with blue, reddish yellow, brown or black layers beneath. If the inclination of the strata are measured, the dip will not exceed five degrees. The wall grows in height noticeably as the stream descends; while the opposite bank follows, as it were, *pari passu*, in a gentle descending slope from the top of the opposite side. The valley is deeper and wider. The sloping side is covered with vegetation, trees near the top, and smaller forest growth toward the water. Farther down stream there has been a *débâcle*. The shales at the bottom crumbled and a long section of the left bank fell into the valley, and continued to fall till the left side is piled up half way to the top, with a backward slope above. The spectator feels the shock of it. The arrangement of the rocks account for it, the weak, soft ones gave out at the bottom.

The stream turns now to the right, and is soon found pressing against a wall on that side, in strata, like the first; and stranger yet, there is a sloping shore on the opposite bank with similar vegetation upon it. Farther down, the slanting shore has become steeper. Or has the

stream found its old bed of ages ago? It now runs with perpendicular walls on each side, with the rock strata on each side matching the other. At the bottom of this glen another gorge comes in from the right and both streams seek the left bank, while on the right the shore extends by a long incline toward the top, the inclination becoming less down stream, to an almost level wide space containing a fair-sized farm of fertile sandy loam, with air drainage for fruit, and the many-colored wall of rock, three hundred feet high, to protect it from north and east winds. A number of oil "rigs" appear, pumped by water power from the stream; more might be worked by the same force or an electric lighting plant could be installed. Spring water of the best abounds; irrigation of many acres would be easy. It is a happy valley. Back in the gorge, where the two rock walls of the stream come near together, what would have been the result if both walls had fallen inward so as to completely close the chasm? This may occur there some time. The wall near the stream falling in, the rocks back of it, deprived of support, would follow, and continue to topple over upon or against those already down, till the strain of the loose slanting top of stones and dirt was relieved. This loose top will begin to come down when the first shelf or stratum just under it swings over into the stream. It carries a part of the top with it, leaving the adjacent portion above ready to slide and roll down. When the slanting top was formed by the crumbling away of the rocks above, each particle stopped where the friction was just sufficient to check it; it was not fastened, but has remained in almost equilibrium. The first shelf of rock that rotates on its column of stone over into the water, may be a number of feet wide and rods long for this reason. The bottom of the stream is hard rock generally, for it wears long; while it was wearing through the shales above, it was also softening them back under the wall; when the hard bottom is reached the water is still running against the edges of the soft rocks at the side, carrying some of their material away, thus undermining the wall. The soft rocks are porous and take up the water, and its oxydizing air, for quite a distance under the wall, so that the wall may be unstable and cracked along the cleavage lines, while it is still standing. Quarries near the river here show tall walls of rocks, with thick layers of limestone, just ready to fall over in long thick walls from the crumbling and water soaking and disintegration of the frail shales underneath. This was

the case two hundred feet back from the water and one hundred and fifty feet above it. The first shelf may be therefore wide and very long, and start the whole slanting top coming, gathering momentum as it moves, so that parts of the wall, following one another, tumble over like a row of books. The opposite wall will be ready to fall at about the same time, if the chasm is straight, and the rock strata the same. The rocks appear to be the same on each side; and they must be nearly the same, or they would have worn unevenly and made a bend in the stream. Suppose both sides to have fallen soon after the glen was formed; then our "happy valley" would not have been fashioned. The water in the hills would have sought and found other outlet, and made a valley elsewhere, "happy" or otherwise.

There is a ravine about midway between Oil City and Franklin known as "dry hollow" or "deep hollow." Its opening on the river bank has an appearance usual to the mouth of a good-sized stream. A meadow of several acres is formed there. From this the road leads along a fair-sized stream bed in which flows a little rill, mostly from a roadside watering trough. From the trough the road ascends sharply for a short distance and then continues level for about a mile, and descends by a steep grade to Monarch Park, where there is a good-sized stream known as Lower Two-mile run. The level of this run is considerably higher than the river at the other end of the hollow. Deep Hollow is high in the middle and low at both ends. Back from the level stretch in the middle, are walls of rocks like river banks, facing each other, perhaps one thousand feet apart. A number of years ago oil wells were drilled in Deep Hollow along the level middle part, on both sides of the street car track and public road which run through it. The drill encountered rocks lying at all angles, widely differing in hardness and material and the bodies of trees such as are now growing near by, making the drilling very difficult. After about sixty-five feet of this, the ordinary drilling of the vicinity was found. The conclusion is forced that Lower Two-Mile used to run through Deep Hollow. It would then have entered the river about a mile above the stream now called Upper Two-Mile, but on the opposite side. Lower Two-Mile now flows from Monarch Park to the river, through a picturesque valley, for three miles, forming level meadows for gardens across the stream from each of the stone walls worn into the rock, crossing from side to side, making wider and deeper its path to the river. This change was

effected in prehistoric times. There is no doubt that the change did take place; the evidence furnished by the drill is overwhelming. Upper and Lower "Two-Mile" runs have been so called since the earliest records here; the former enters the river about two miles above Franklin, and the latter the same distance below. The changing of one small brook, so that it makes its valley in one place, rather than in another, with its level spot in the angle of every bend, seems a trifling result of piling rocks sixty feet high in a chasm a mile long and a thousand feet wide. A less effort at another point might have changed the river system of several States.

#### VICINITY OF OIL CITY

Ascending from the valley to some of the high points near Oil City, a wide outlook is obtained over the surrounding territory. On the highest land of Hasson Height the city engineer has placed two water tanks to supply parts needing high pressure. The elevation here, as determined by survey, is 532 feet above the Pennsylvania railway track, or 1,536 feet above sea level. Two other points, namely, Rich Hill, and Clark's Summit, are, respectively, twelve and fifteen feet higher. From these high places, the view along the principal streams shows a succession of irregular bluffs, abrupt, precipitous, pyramidal, or in ridges. Looking in the opposite direction the land appears level, or as a gently undulating surface, extending back from the streams along both banks. Here are no high hills or "mounts," as writers in former times called them when looking up from the valleys. The rocks are all in place, in horizontal layers. In a mountain region the strata are tilted up at all angles, even under the foothills. Our surface rocks belong to the "Vespertine" Series of the geologists, so named, perhaps, because they belong to the late or ensuing period of the Devonian Age. "They surround the entire coal basin of the State as with a girdle." They are fifty feet thick in this county, though much thicker farther east. The top layer is a hard gray sand rock, or a coarser grit, or in some sections a limestone, underlaid by shales. Next below is the "Vergent" series, reaching to the river's bottom and below, made up of sand rock, shales and some limestone. In this second series are the local quarries; the sand rocks cleave readily into building blocks, some of them into flags. From the high points the general level appears to be forty to fifty feet lower. This is the level which is seen most

frequently along the tops of the river walls, and seems to be the same distance above the river at Oil City, Franklin, Emlenton or at Pittsburgh. From this view, the truth appears to be, that from slight depressions among the hills along this descending plateau, the river bed and those of all its tributaries and the bottoms of ravines have, in the course of ages, been scooped out by the action of the water. This has dug through the rocks these vast channels and is still making them wider and deeper.

#### OIL CREEK

The ancient river, finding its way among the low places of the rolling hills, was at first broad, shallow and sluggish. Very early in the life of the river it was joined by Oil creek. The two streams are the same age; and the history of their confluence is written in traceries which join along their banks and match each other, so that one can not be understood without the other. As shown by marks and benches in the hills, the river extended from the topmost bank on the south side northward to Clark's Summit, and to the high south escarpment of the Cemetery, covering its slanting top where it slants southward, for about fifty feet along the slope; and over the top of Hogback as far as the high shoulder of that ridge. Oil creek met the river at the same level. Its left bank was the west slope of Hasson Height, and the west side of the cemetery's top. The level whereon Oil City stands was covered with undisturbed rock formations, probably three hundred feet thick. The old course whers the creek turned to the left against Hasson Height, can be easily traced today. The river was nearly a mile wide, and the creek was nearly half as wide, judging by the shore limits. In time the waters below wore an outlet. The bed of the river was gradually lowered to the bench below the Cemetery, withdrawing the water in part from the south side. The creek retreated slowly to a bed east of Pearl avenue; here it met the river 1,000 feet at least north of the present junction, where a bed of *river gravel* was left. There is no gravel from the creek, only chips of shale. There are stratified sand banks north of St. Joseph's Church, deposited by the upward swirl of the creek waters where they turned into the river one hundred fifty feet above its present bed, the finest sand being farthest up stream. Water is a perfect separator of what it carries; it drops the coarser particles first, the finer later, and always in layers. On

the south side there are sand beds at about the same height, where the water turned around the end of a bar forming opposite to a bend dug into the other bank. Finally, the river and creek descended nearly to their present beds, some thousands of years ago. Oil creek now had for its left bank the slope crossing Grove avenue, for its right bank the wall against which it had run from far back, still extending in thickness farther toward the east than now—probably farther, to the middle of the present river bed. The river was running along the wall just above the railroad track to Siverly, that extends back of East Bissell Ave. A continuation of this wall also shows where the river wore off the face of Hogback and of the wall below in the same place. It continued along this right bank, boring into it till it completed almost a round turn, where it threw the stream against the left bank at Reno. This left bank is a very old one, and apparently reaches from its present bed to the ancient top. It received all the pounding through the ages of the waters above and of the rocks brought down with them, and took it nearly square in the face till it wore upstream and increased the angle of the bank to the stream above. The erosive power of water is not usually appreciated. This power increases if the velocity of water is increased. But the increase of carrying and erosive power is enormously greater than the increase of velocity. It is proved by mathematics that if the velocity of a stream is doubled the carrying power is increased sixty-four times, and therefore its erosive and its striking power against a bank or bed of a stream is increased also that number of times. This may be briefly stated: If a given rate, 1, sufficient to move a cubic foot, by pressing against one of its square foot faces, current 2 will hit the face one foot square with twice as many particles in a given time, and each particle, having twice the velocity, makes the momentum four times as great, which pressing against the square-foot face of a cube would move that cube and three others back of it. Draw a cube four feet on each edge. It will have sixteen square feet in each face; one foot back of any face parallel to it will contain sixteen cubic feet. Two feet back and parallel thirty-two cubic feet, four feet back will contain sixty-four cubic feet. Or, the sixteen square feet of surface of any side of the cube will each have one cubic foot and three other cubic feet back of it, and can be moved by current 2. This has also been shown by experiment. The velocity of river currents is frequently in-

creased; it is sometimes more than doubled. It increases noticeably toward the bottom of a "riffle"—Allegheny nomenclature, meaning a descent in the stream's bed where the water flows faster than above and still faster just as it enters, at a step or downgrade, the "eddy" or still water below. The Allegheny river is made up of long "eddies" and short "rifles." The average eddy is a mile or more in length, the riffle not more than one-eighth or one-tenth as long. At the end of the riffle is a turn in the river. So that the wall at the upper end of every eddy will be hit by the stones coming down the rapid riffle. The larger stones are continually taken from the lower part, making the riffle deeper, and steeper farther back; the wall below is worn away, making the passage wider, and worn into, making it curved, throwing the water, stones and sand to the other shore, leaving a slanting bar from the water toward the top of the opposite bank. As the curve in the wall wears down stream the bar inside the curve moves with it and forms a plane, thin at the edge toward the water, thicker further back. Now imagine this going on at every bend in the river at the time the water was running on one side or the other at the top of the oldest bank. The first riffle formed would cut a curve in the wall and make a plane sloping to the opposite bank. Conceive this to go on till the walls are three hundred, three hundred fifty or four hundred feet high, and we will have the river about as it is today. The walls are nearly perpendicular, some curved, some straight, but the most puzzling thing is that opposite every wall the dirt seems to have crawled up to the top of the bank, three hundred feet or more high. How did this take place? The fact is, the wall has worn away, the stream followed it sideways, and the sloping plane of detritus also followed it by being built up near the stream. The wall has been worn into the bank, probably to a distance half as far as its height. The same is true of the opposing curve, up stream, on the right. It made a longer, deeper arc than the lower one did on the left, so that the valley is considerably wider as a result of their action. A peculiar feature of this right curve is this: It attacked the wall so fiercely that more rocks fell into the stream than it could remove. These fell, as thick, long, high walls rotating from bottom to top like a spoke on a wheel, over into the stream bed. They kept toppling over, their tops reaching four hundred feet into the stream, till they made a pile thirty feet high; so that the river was pushed away from the old bank. The stones farthest in the stream

are the old Vespertine sand rocks; toward the bank, are softer shales. The water, percolating through the broken sandstones, crumbles them somewhat, but they solidify and form practically a solid wall. On the land so formed was built former Oil City, or the Third Ward now. Upon this table, resulting from the walls reeling into the stream bed, was the Main street of the town, with its buildings on either side. This thoroughfare was extended as the road to Franklin, accompanied later by two railways with oil wells on the side, round the curve, across the lower part of the Reno incline, child of the river; along the flat at the mouth of Two-Mile, thence along a table formed by the falling in of the river's rock walls; thence to the banks of French creek at Franklin. The foundation of this road winding round the bluffs was laid by the river itself, and by several small runs bringing their offerings from the hilltops through the rocks.

The river's work in one part of its course is typical of what it is doing throughout the county and all along its banks. Everywhere it is swerving from side to side, cutting curves miles long in the earth's old crust; pushing within the top of every bend the sands and gravels of a Devonian coast, brought within reach by the glaciers moving as centuries do; sorting and leaving along the slant the silt from the banks and beds; the wall itself retreating into the bank before the oncoming of generations of plants down the slope; making acres of fine soil from minute particles sifted and placed, the same sizes together; quite level now near the bottom and the whole made fertile by the remains of the successive growths that have come down the incline, drawn their substance from the air, and added much of it to the soil. This is the present river. Trying to look a little into its history as it is traced in the earth, leaves only a feeling of unlimited power, extreme duration, beyond words, beyond thought; yet suggesting a trend toward better things, sure as the flow of rivers.

The older geographies used to say that the streams "water" the lands; then they stated that they "drained" the land,—this, as a correction. The streams do both, and more. They vivify the land, make it a developing, living thing, ever more productive of living forms.

#### FRENCH CREEK

The stream next in importance to the Allegheny is French creek. In its journey of twenty-five miles from Meadville to Franklin it falls only ninety-three feet. It is therefore

a leisurely stream and gathers its waters from a considerable area. In ancient times, it spread out at flood times and formed many broad meadows before entering Venango. It paused at slight obstructions after coming into this county and made some fine farming lands in the curves of its bends. As it approaches the river, its descent is faster, but this is accomplished by taking more frequent downward steps in the shallows, leaving shorter stretches of still water between. This is noticeable, from the long piece of deep water at Cochranton. Below this place, the length of each slack-water decreases, as it approaches its confluence, showing that here the work of digging to the river's level became more strenuous. If not required to hesitate at the dam near its mouth, it would enter the river as a rapid stream. It leaves a broad meadow upon its right bank upon which are located the inlots and outlots of fair Franklin.

#### SUGAR CREEK

About two and one half miles above Franklin, Sugar creek enters French creek, through a wide valley pleasing to the eye, consisting of farms to-day, well tilled, and bringing prosperity to their owners. This creek has many affluents in Sugar Creek, Canal, Jackson, Oakland, Cherrytree and Plum townships, whose valleys they "water," "drain" and vivify, thus making them productive. Along the slopes of its branches in Plum there are numerous wild plum trees, from which the township doubtless was named—a hint to horticulturists, for the flavor of this fruit is transcendent when made into jelly or preserves. By cultivation or budding, it might be enlarged and become a gustatory revelation. The ramifications of this stream cover nearly the northwest quarter of the county. Most of the tributaries start from large, cool springs, assuring good water to the residents. The soil of the upland of this whole section is well adapted to all the crops of surrounding counties, corn, wheat, rye, oats, hay and clover. A portion is noted for its butter, which requires a fine soil. It is stated that an early hunter, in the heart of this region, used to shoot an average of forty bears in the late summer and early fall of the year, for their meat and skins, which was his harvest and enabled him to hibernate in comfort. Now the soil that can raise timber and other vegetation to feed the wild animals, bear, deer, turkeys, wolves, panthers, rabbits, squirrels which the early settlers found here, must be a good soil, capable of profitable culti-

vation. This applies to the whole county. It was covered with a heavy growth of timber; and therefore the soil is very generally capable of responding generously to cultivation. The early settlers could not supply that cultivation. The tools for it were not yet on earth, or on the way. The theories of it were not yet formulated. Removed from eastern markets, the pioneers had to live upon game, and hand culture, Indian style, for the first generation; and they did, and were as hardy and wholesome as the deer and bear they hunted and as free and as careless as the eagle.

#### AGRICULTURAL POSSIBILITIES

The northeast quarter of the county is a replica of that part just mentioned. The rolling hills along the banks of the river and of Oil creek, which determined the old courses of those, were considerably higher. The land, as usual, was covered with trees. There are two townships, Allegheny and President, only partly cleared of timber now, though there are tracts of good lands in both. In President there are good-sized productive farms, along the river, a less number in Allegheny, along the upper branches of Pithole creek. Later, when the land is cleared, and the timber sold, there will be possibilities that agriculture will thrive. The other townships, south of the Allegheny river and French creek, are a good average among the same number of similar organizations in the State. They may not be so prolific in certain crops, but in productiveness of the usual farm crops, they rank high. They have much level land along the valleys, easily tilled and responding quickly and generously to fertilizers and stirring. The southern and eastern parts have limestone, which burns to practically pure lime; so that their soils contain it naturally. Scrubgrass is underlaid with coal veins thirty inches to four feet thick. There is coal in other townships—Cranberry, in veins three or more feet thick, and in Plum, and doubtless it would be found if sought in other parts. Some of these veins used to be worked, and might be again if fuel becomes much more valuable. They were worked before fuel gas was found here in abundance.

But the one great promise of our county, as a whole, is in the production of fruit, and especially of apples. A considerable part of the county might be made to produce the finest apples, as good as any in the world. Our slopes, chosen to slant in the right direction, would furnish the all important air drainage. The top soil everywhere, with very few exceptions,

is deep and well fitted for tree growth. There are already here many orchards producing as fine fruit as ever appealed to the eye or taste and their careful culture here has just begun. Trees must be cared for, not stuck into the ground and abandoned to struggle for themselves, with the bugs, or turn into shade trees. A few public-spirited gentlemen have already accomplished much by offering prizes for the display of bushels—not platefuls—of fruit. Some of the leading experts of the State have pronounced the exhibits remarkable. They have also been through the county and have stated that this section is peculiarly fitted by nature for fruit trees, especially apples, pears, cherries, plums, quinces. Crop failures are not more frequent in this than in other productions; or dry holes in drilling for oil, gas, or gold or silver. It is the judgment of a number of the experts mentioned, that this county if proportionate efforts were devoted to fruit raising, would in a few years produce a larger annual income from this source than

that received from oil during the last twenty-five years.

Three generations ago, many apple orchards were planted twenty miles east of the Hudson on hilly, stony ground, more unpromising than this and a little farther above sea level. The apples came. The first and part of the second generation derived a small income by converting the apple juice into vinegar, and hauling it to market twenty miles away. Now, well along in the third generation, buyers come after the apples, and pay a little fortune for them yearly. This is one instance of many. Of this fruit a good share was sent to Europe. At the close of the present war the demand "over there" will be greatly increased. Why not organize still further to consider this project? There seems to be no doubt among the men who have given the subject much thought that Venango county's agricultural possibilities are only just beginning; that from her hills and valleys, so often the center of world-wide interest, there shall issue, in greater abundance, food for the hungry nations.

## CHAPTER III

### EARLY DEVELOPMENT

#### PIONEER CONDITIONS—PIONEER CONVENiences—PIONEER ANIMALS AND HUNTING—SHELTER AND FIRE—EARLY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES—POSTAL SERVICE—FINANCIAL EXCHANGE— PIONEER PRODUCTIONs

The United States is the only nation in the world which can be seen in all stages of its development from its beginning to the present. The history of all other civilized countries fades backward into a period of mystery; their traces becoming fainter through receding stages of savagery finally disappear into the caves. Here the mingled bones of men and of animals have been preserved by the drip from the roof, burying them under layers of carbonate of lime left by the water. Among these remains are conclusive evidences of religious rites and rude cuttings or drawings upon horns and ivory, made by pointed flints, representing animals now known only by fossil remains. These most ancient savages believed in some sort of immortality, and made their feeble appeal of art to their own kind; even then they were forward looking.

It was a far journey through ages of time

in seas of trouble, from those caves to the ships which sailed from Europe at the end of the fifteenth century westward into the unknown, and found a new world. Up to the time of this voyage, many notable improvements upon the far era of the cave men had been made. The three little ships and the master mind which guided them, summarized many of the changes. But some of the results of the past appeared at this time as abuses. They may have been useful in some of the struggles through stages of barbarism; they were now worse than useless. Chief of these were, first, caste; second, autocracy; third, state-imposed theology. The first limited, even crushed human effort; the second, claimed by divine sanction, the control of those efforts and absolute ownership of their results; the third circumscribed the outlook toward the future, including education, art and immortal hope.

Human progress is the sum of individual growth, by the free activity of each, regulated only by the equal freedom of all. Men do not grow, when bound by steel into masses and forced, by authority not of themselves or for themselves, to accomplish some secret purpose beyond their sight or intention. For centuries before and after this voyage of Columbus men felt the repression of these old crusts which had closed over them. They protested, but the bonds were drawn all the closer. Then came doubt, discontent and bloodshed. Wars ebbed and flowed round these three great questions. This period was known as the Reformation. It arose in widely separated places in the Old World, in the thirteenth century, and continued onward in time, becoming wider in extent, fiercer, more intense. Its devotees were hunted like wolves in distant glens of the mountains, in lonely places of forests; persecution, imprisonment, torture, death, awaiting them if they were found worshipping unlawfully, or practicing treason by upholding the right of the inner guidance of the spirit in matters of faith and of life. They were not convinced by arguments of rack and thumbscrew, gibbets and gridirons, or by beheadings and quarterings. Their numbers increased.

In England in the fifteenth century the state theology was changed, and then back and forth again, by royal influence. This eased up persecution from that source; those inside were chary of starting doctrinal troubles for fear that the next change would find them on the wrong side subject to reprisal. Still matters improved backwards again, and were running that way for a while. But in the middle of the 17th century a king of England was jarred from his throne, defeated in war, tried and executed for treason and his successor appointed—all by the Commons. Again in this fatal century still another King was removed and not only his successor, but the order of succession throughout time, were fixed upon by the Commons. The state theology lost its long punitive arm. Caste in the old sense had been dead four centuries. Middle Class and Nobility had become interchangeable. The Commons governed. The Atlantic coast from northern Maine to Florida was covered by colonies, all English, either by common descent, or by yet stronger bond of spiritual brotherhood. Before another century closed, these colonies, from the attrition of common troubles, dangers and sufferings, had won a common triumph and forever laid aside those three old crusts. If those shackles reappear here, it

will be because other ideals prevail, upheld by an entirely different race of people.

#### PIONEER CONDITIONS

With such history as a prelude, the early settlers came to Venango county. They built their homes in the wilderness, not from the materials found there. Their cabins were indeed assembled from the forests around them. But their homes were built only out of the abiding and strong desire of their hearts housed within crude walls at first. The log hut from the outside might appear small and insignificant as a building and yet the home, inside, may have promised a beauty and a splendor and adornment of real life, not found in palaces. The people who came were alike in one important respect. They came at the call of a common need. They had been cramped. The open spaces in the west appealed to them. Land in the vicinity of the older settlements was expensive, often held as an inheritance by the children of the older and wealthier families. In the south the best land was held in large plantations, worked by slaves; while throughout the North, not one of the many industries which have since converted that section into a prosperous human hive had even been thought of. A chance to work with the hands, to earn a livelihood, build up at the same time a home, and look forward to future ease and independence, was a wide-felt need over the whole country. One is astonished in reading history, in noting how universal was this movement to the West, launched at this time, when the ill results of all the wars and of the early Confederacy were most disturbing. When the Indian menace to settlement was quieted, the movement rolled into full flood. The western parts of all our colonies and lands adjacent, were settled at this time, in the last years of the eighteenth, and the first few of the nineteenth century. It was a great wave of equality, and of true democracy sweeping over the country. Not simply more land, but freer life, larger thought; these are the real Golden Fleece. This idea animated those coming to Venango. It unified the settlers. The country had been "bled white." Thousands had cheerfully given up fortune and life. The survivors and the children of the dead did not asseverate; did not express their purpose. They felt the force of the spirit, immortal above sacrifice, and lived it.

Most of the early arrivals came from the

eastern parts of this State and from neighboring States. Some, later, from Germany, England, Ireland, Holland, Scotland and other distant countries, where life had brought sight, came. They easily were combined into a harmonious working force. They gathered about the idea of a group of intelligent, self-respecting equals, formed into a political unit of regulated freedom, as readily as bees swarm round the queen. The only royalty they recognized was an ideal found in their history and visualized by their own experience, soft as a snowflake or sharp as the lightning.

Some of the beginnings of this life seem small, but they were very intense. One young man, a hunter, came from Huntingdon county, walking all the way, subsisting upon the products of his rifle. All his possessions were upon his person, in the bosom of his fringed hunting shirt, or wrapped in a blanket fastened to his shoulders by straps of deer's hide. Besides his rifle, horn and bullet pouch, he carried the long hunting knife, and a hatchet. He had been a pioneer since early boyhood. He could find his way in the night through the forest by feeling the trees. When darkness came, he supped and slept till daybreak. If clouds threatened rain or snow, an Indian camp was constructed in short order where he could stay for days if necessary, comfortable and dry. He stopped at Pittsburgh, then (summer of 1795) a cluster of log cabins around the fort, long enough to secure some supplies. Continuing up the river bank, he passed Franklin, which he noticed as only a small cluster of log huts and some ruins, near the mouth of the creek. The fort and the few cabins near it were nearly three fourths of a mile up stream. At the mouth of Oil creek, the village of the tribe of Cornplanter Indians was located. Passing this, he continued up the creek and striking off eastward from the creek a few miles passed the night where he afterward located his farm. At first he thought to stay a few days looking round for game. He built an Indian camp, afterwards a log hut, in which he passed the winter. He could outshoot and outtrap any of the Indians, but could not compete with them in catching trout with his fingers, though they often illustrated their skill to him very good-naturedly. Here he lived for four years, alone probably except for the dog and horse he had acquired. His skill as a hunter and trapper was almost like witchery. He was on good terms with nature. He had a neighbor or two at the end of the century, within traveling distance. In the meantime he had made the improvements necessary to secure his

homestead. He stayed upon the land where he had thought to rest for a day or two because the spring water and the forest there appealed to him; here he passed a long life and left numerous descendants.

There were others like him in various parts of the county. In one of the earliest settled portions of northern Venango several young men in the last year or two of the eighteenth century had arranged to take land in allotments near enough so that they could assist one another in some of their most strenuous duties. They had trouble with the Indians. On more than one occasion, when one of their number had undertaken the long overland trip to secure the salt necessary to preserve their venison or bear beef for winter, he had been attacked while returning and his precious burden taken from him. Salt cost eight dollars a bushel, and the surest way to get it even at that price was to walk to Erie and return, with it upon the shoulders. The journey over and back consumed a week or ten days, so the loss was serious. The trip to the Land Company's grist-mill, near the Crawford county line, was attended with like danger. It was therefore arranged to make these journeys in companies of three or four, to take turns in carrying and in watching for savages or wild beasts. Their rifles were loaded and they were marksmen. Their freight then came through with certainty and dispatch. Later, a gristmill was erected on Tionesta creek. This made "going to mill" easier for all the residents of that section. The mill also served to draw the attention of its visitors to the natural meadows, containing many flowers, along the Allegheny and Tionesta creek. The flowering plants served to brighten some of the homes, and to make more summer in the front yards and in the hearts of the women and the children in the solitudes. Some of the close observers saw more in the flowers than bright colors. They saw bees; and afterward "lined" them to their hollow trees, crowning the ordinary buckwheats of winter with pleasing "calories." Hunting bee trees was much enjoyed by the early settlers generally.

After the fall crops had been harvested there came a season of hunting and trapping. Bears and red deer supplied the meat and most of the fats for winter's tables. Salt preserved the meat aided by smoke from the sweetest woods. Jerked venison, which was deer's flesh cut into sheets or webs and dried on pegs above glowing embers, was thought by travelers to be both board and lodging in trying times. The fur-bearing animals were also plentiful, otters,

beavers, foxes, wolves, muskrats, even squirrels—all these yielded a ready substitute for current cash. Fish were taken from the river and the larger streams at their mouths by drawing brush nets. Sometimes, after a successful drawing, bushels of this fine food were distributed among the settlers to provide for winter. During winter "felling" trees was in order. Land was to be cleared; fuel was thus provided and timber for future home needs. At the same time, choice logs were reserved for sale in the growing markets downstream. Rafting timber was one of the early industries of the county, at first to Pittsburgh, then further down, and finally down the Mississippi. Many of our early lumbermen have floated timber to New Orleans as it was the best market and, after disposing of it, *have walked back*. Walking was the quickest way of traveling in those days. "Walking all day, is not so hard as most other jobs," said an old settler. The people of those times had considerable of it. One pedestrian made the trip to New Orleans and back, not because he had to, but simply to decide a mooted question. He was gone three months and more. He gained his point, saw the country, and returned a wiser and healthier man doubtless. Much traveling for political purposes has been done since then, but not many such long trips, on foot. Now, the same conclusion would be reached with very little effort by mail or telegraph; but our pedestrian was right; he chose the quickest and only certain way then available.

#### PIONEER CONVENIENCES

The vehicles of early times were better adapted to circumstances than to going through space rapidly. There was the large pine log, hollowed into a capacious trough, some of them four feet wide, with smooth skids along its bottom to lessen friction, rounded at the ends, drawn by oxen; it made a good "stone boat." It was a most useful article about a pioneer farm, equally adapted to all seasons. For several years there were neither wagons nor roads on which to use them. A more simple vehicle was, however, contrived. From a small-sized tree was taken a piece having at one end two prongs extending eight or ten feet from the fork. The single end was fastened to the ring of the ox-yoke, the other resting upon the ground. Across the prongs, puncheons or split planks were placed, and kept from sliding backwards by long wooden pins set upright in each prong. There were also sled cars, upon which some of the

early settlers entered the county. A sled car consisted of two poles, one on either side of the horse, one end of each being fastened to the hames or collar, and the other resting on the ground. On the parts resting on the ground puncheons were laid, kept in place by upright pins. These were good; but they were most used for getting about in winter. In 1815 wagons were introduced in the county; but it was not till 1820 that the first one was constructed here, by Ninian Irwin for Thomas McKee.

The first harness of the pioneers was made of withes with crooked roots or pieces of limbs of trees for hames. Before long the tanning of hides was begun and then good substantial home-made leather harness was used.

Grain was threshed with a flail, a day's work being ten to twenty bushels. There were no fanning mills in those days, and the grain was generally cleaned by sifting it through a coarse sieve or riddle, over a sheet, when a fair wind was blowing. Sometimes, as the wind ceased, the process became more tedious. Then an extra sheet was required to raise the wind by fanning. In this way perhaps ten bushels could be cleaned in a day. Fanning mills were introduced in the twenties, and were great time savers. Ninian Irwin, "heaven-born mechanician," and a neighbor built the first one constructed here.

The grass and grain were cut with sickles for a short time. Soon the scythe and the "cradle" were brought in as the hay and grain harvests increased in abundance. But this was not till the removal of the stumps gave more room for culture, and a full swing for the larger instruments. Agriculture, in its present significance, could hardly be used as the name of pioneer farming. The virgin soil was ready for the seed when cleared of its timber. The ashes left from burning the wood upon the land where it grew was a good preparation for the first crop or two. The axe men, experienced in this work, would cut the trees so that they fell in double windrows across the field, ready to burn when dry, with little work by men or oxen. Then the cultivation was started among the stumps, hope of the future, "bread for the sower and food for the eater."

The implements used would in this age of improvements attract attention as curiosities. The principal instrument used for several years was the triangular drag, consisting of three pieces of hewed timber five inches square and six feet long, fastened together in the form of the letter A. The teeth, made of the hardest wood, were double or treble the size of those

now used. It was sometimes made from a crotched tree and needed no framing. The drag was drawn bounding over the roots and stones, up and down the slopes, generally by oxen driven by boys, or girls; the animals preferring the latter, doing better work when they drove. When the roots became brittle by time and the use of the drag, the plow was used. The "plow" resembled the modern instrument only in its purpose. It had a twelve-foot beam and a seven-foot handle, but it worried the ground a little more than the drag did, let in a little more heat and moist air; but how the man, seven feet in the rear at the end of the one long handle, managed to guide it with a yoke of oxen pulling it away from him, is a mystery. Still it was an easy thing to believe in; it was so large, and timber was plentiful. It was usually of wood throughout, rarely it had an iron point, for that metal was distant and costly.

Some other "heaven-born" in the county introduced an improvement by making plows from the crotches of cross-grained hardwoods, so peculiar in growth that a moldboard could be formed on one side and the straight edge on the opposite side. It had an iron point and could turn a furrow. Later it acquired a double handle. This led to the introduction of the modern plow, with a few of the sub-soil kind, best of all for stirring up and letting the sun and air penetrate and vivify old or new, stiff souring soils like thousands of acres in Venango county to-day. Later improvements in the plow and harrow, the invention of drills, cultivators, planters, and other labor-saving devices, changed the possibilities of agriculture, even during the lives of many of the early settlers here.

The plow of the early Egyptians consisted of a crooked stick drawn by oxen. It continued practically unchanged, though somewhat modified, through Greek and Roman history. It was about the same in the fields of Europe till the first quarter of the eighteenth century, when it was changed to something like its present form in Holland. The English adopted it; and a Scotchman, James Small, wrote a treatise on the subject, and followed this by producing plows with cast-iron moldboards and wrought-iron shares in 1785. In 1797, the first patent for a cast-iron plow in America was taken out by Charles Newbold of New Jersey. This instrument was brought to its present perfection by improvements in 1804, 1805 and 1819, and by many subsequent, though minor ones, since. Its share and moldboard, as combined, are the result of mathe-

matical calculation combined with direct experiment, to procure the best point connected with an up lifting and up setting wedge by easy connecting curves. The fathers of Venango agriculture are not to be blamed; when better tools were not within reach, they improved what they had, and made progress.

#### PIONEER ANIMALS AND HUNTING

There was an interesting and numerous variety of wild animals in the county in early days. If a collection of them could be formed, containing one specimen of each of the different kinds which roamed these forests, it would make a valuable menagerie. Perhaps some future philanthropist may make a collection of pictures of them gathered from various sources. It would be instructive. The ones most feared were the bear and the wolf. The wolf was the most destructive. He would destroy sheep by seizing them by the throat, drinking their blood, and leave their carcasses to be devoured by other carnivorous animals. He would attack cattle grazing, and destroy calves and pigs, unless they were carefully penned at night. Many were destroyed in the daytime, near the houses, by these pests. They sometimes followed people to the doors of their dwellings. Some of the settlers have described the noises they made at night, which of a truth must have "murdered sleep." "The noise made by these animals was not, as some imagine, a bass growl, but a strong crackling tenor. Seemingly a leader began the concert by a solo of firm prolonged sound, when the rest would pitch in with a grand chorus of the most terrible jargon of sounds dying away at the place of beginning, as the reverberation rolled over the far off hills." The echoes become fainter, almost cease; then the hurricane of noise starts afresh. Bounties for the destruction of these animals were offered by the public authorities. These induced trappers and hunters to spend a good deal of time and thought to secure their scalps. As wolves hunt in the night, when they can not be shot, most of them were probably caught in traps. The most used wolf trap was the common steel trap with jaws a foot long or more. The jaws were notched with sharp, strong teeth like a crosscut saw. Attached to the trap was a chain with hooks, not to fasten it but to make it difficult to drag. The trap would hang back a little by one of the hooks. The animal would look at it, loosen it, and start on again with the same result. Caught by the fore leg, as he probably would be in trying to paw out

the bait, if the trap were fast, he would gnaw off his leg and be gone. Another trap was a pen of logs built narrow at the top, wider at the bottom. The animal could easily get in to the bait inside, but could not climb out at the narrow top.

Some trappers became very wise in the ways of wild animals. They seemed to be able to change places with them, and to know, in advance, what they would think and what they would do. As the hunter observes closely the lives and the ways of the hunted, his mind incloses their smaller thoughts; he sees what they want, and all the ways by which they will move. His traps therefore are in the right place to take them, or he and his rifle are. He outwits the fox and the wolf, because he can learn all their ways before they can learn new ones. The wolves go in packs. He can always get some of them. The foxes are more difficult; but their cunning is sure to run in well-known grooves of instinct when this "lucky" hunter is waiting for them.

The results are in no sense due to luck, though that is the general idea. The successful hunter or trapper is a thinker. His observation is microscopic, his memory tenacious, his reasoning sure. He must interpret threads, hairs of evidence. He knows his quarry as a whole; what its aims are, what it lives on, where its food is. He knows the point to which it will return, its home. Its world is small, its mental activities are few, often repeated, and become almost automatic or run in ruts. It is sure to repeat. Just what a wild thing will do next, no man can tell; but the expert knows its round of life, and within this circle he works, with results that astonish the novice.

As an illustration, this story is related of an early hunter, after the county was somewhat settled. A wonderful fox had been seen at intervals, and then disappeared from the earth, it seemed. He was equal at least to the one George Power bought from three successive Indians on the same day, and profited on all three sales. The hunter knew about this fox which had appeared and vanished on several occasions. He had hunted it, set traps for it, and had shorthand notes about it under his cap. Every fox hunter, man and dog, was in readiness. At last the fox was started, chased, rooted out, almost captured. Then faded away. The hunter also faded early in the case; he was seen riding away on his horse. Three days later he returned *with the fox*. "Boys, I was afraid you wouldn't chase him close enough to find where he goes when

he's scar'd foolish and tuckered out, but you did. It's sixty-five miles from here in a straight line, though he didn't go straight."

#### SHELTER AND FIRE

Some of the first comers lived during the first summer in Indian camps, as they are called now. These were fashioned of evergreen branches with the tips down, the butts fastened to a ridge pole, which might be a stake sharpened at both ends, one end jammed into a rough-barked hemlock, the other end into the ground. The first boughs are shingled with smaller ones, tips down, till the roof is a foot thick, and would shed rain for a week. Inside, bushy hemlock boughs eighteen inches long, set up with their butts on the ground as thick as they could be crowded together, held in place at the edges with stiff rods staked, make a springy bed a foot thick, fit for a king, and a health giver at every breath. The camp is narrower toward the back, as that is the scraggy hemlock. A fire at the front throws its warmth and light.

The experienced man makes his fire thus: He cuts three stakes, sharpens them and drives them into the ground in front of the camp, facing the opening, three feet away, and slanting backward a little but all parallel or in the same plane. Against the stakes he piles three small logs, the largest on the ground, next two decreasing in size; in front of these he lays four logs, about the same length and size as the bottom one against the stakes. Now he has a back to his fireplace and a hearth. Here he builds a fire in the middle of his hearth, on the green logs, using dry stuff, hemlock knots, stubs, or dried pine. He makes a convenient cook stove, but as stoves were not yet invented, the pioneer would not know its name. Facing two logs with his hatchet, placing the hewed faces four inches apart at one end, six inches at the other, letting a fire come to live coals between these logs, he makes an ideal place for broiling venison steak worked to a pulp with hunting knife, on a green birch gridiron, or for trout stuck in the throat on the sharpened ends of the twigs of a birch branch. On a flat stone he boils water in a birch bark vessel built square and tucked in at the corners, and has all kinds of stews, leeks, ground nuts, venison. He would be friendly with the Indians, such as he are, and with the whites if any were within ten miles. He builds an oven of flat stones, at one end of his range, for parching corn or baking wild apples. He also roasts venison or bear or fish in a hole

dug under the hot ashes at the wide end, between the hewed logs, first wrapping the meat in damp sweet green leaves. Sometimes roasting ears are there too. The hole is then filled in with hot ashes and live embers, the heat is kept up till an aroma arises.

So lived one of Venango's settlers for a whole year. There were others. They were even more vigorous than the bears or the squirrels. They never hibernated. They cleared the forest to make good their claims. Their recitals have often sent their grand-sons back to Indian camps in wildernesses to recover health of body, vigor of mind and the simple faith of childhood, which the world was filching from them.

The century was closing. Settlers were arriving in the county with every day's sunshine, from the East, with hope and good cheer. Franklin's five families received with hospitality those who were attracted to her picturesque valley. The great majority of them who came were seeking land to live upon, or rather, to live from. Necessity was the mother of them all. The great demand was for houses. Trees covered the territory; but there was a close connection between the two. Trees had somehow acquired the habit of becoming houses in a day in Venango. It was in this way: A homeseeking couple arrived from the far East, two hundred miles away, after two weeks of ox-cart guidance and hard footing, or the two had just arrived as a couple by the lifelong handclasp. In either case, and in thousands of others, the old settlers of three years or less residence were prepared to receive them. Homesteads were to be erected. A day was set apart for the work. Settlers came from near and far, some with axes and ox teams, women with packed lunches. Probably the site was already chosen as the lady would have looked the ground over at once. The axemen would soon fell the necessary number of trees, trim off the brush, and cut the logs to right length, which would be hauled to the site near the spring. The corner men would "notch" the logs, so that the top part of the joint would overlap the bared wood of the lower part, and protect it from weathering and rotting at the joints. The logs were so jointed that they touched one another throughout their whole length. While the corner men were at work, others would be splitting or sawing enough planks or puncheons from straight-grained logs, for the door-casing, door, and floor of the loft. When the house reached the right height, the logs of the gable ends were shortened, flattened to lie close together, the

ends slanted to the slope of the roof, and each pinned to the log below by wooden pins. Then the stout ridge pole was placed, and roof poles, three and one-half feet apart, from ridge pole to top log on each side, with projecting eaves, and pinned in place. The shingles were taken from birch bark or elm trees; strips of bark four feet long, three to three and a half feet wide, laid on from eaves to ridge pole like shingles, one-half to the weather, each course held in place by a stiff straight pole in the middle of the course, pinned at ridge pole and eave. Then the course on the opposite side of the roof was laid and continued till the roof was completed. This requires the loft floor before the roof is laid as walking upon the roof would likely crack the bark and spoil it. The last course is laid from the ladder, or by platform at the end. The inside floor has been laid in the meantime, a door of thick plank constructed, swung on wooden hinges, barred with stout oak. Pegs are over the door for rifles and axes; other pegs are handy for household utensils. A bedstead appears in one corner made of three strong rods, the longer one inserted deeply into one of the end logs of the house, the shorter one in like manner, from a side log; where these two cross, the third piece is placed as a support. A bed cord perhaps has been twisted by the women, out of the inner fibres of elm bark, or slats are laid lengthwise and across, covered with straw ticks and pillows. Three-legged stools are there, and a table with legs, and shelves on pins—all from split planks. The chimney appears as a wide fireplace in a large opening cut at one end and edged with planks; a hearth also reaches into the room. Thence the smoke stack reaches above the roof. This is now completed by the masons of the party and is made of flint stones laid in clay and sticks and pebbles, and will stand there after the logs have decayed round it and three generations are in God's "acre" and the fourth is scattered over half a continent. A house like this was often built complete in a day. It was a real home inside.

A good class of people came to this county. They were religious, they reverenced the Power back of all things, and they knew that it "makes for righteousness." They sought instruction in the things of the spirit. They established churches early in the county history.

#### EARLY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Schools were established as soon as the families were settled. They had not the per-

quisites of the present schools. The books of that day were imperfect, some of them were great jokes—for instance the New England Primer, but doubtless that served often a useful purpose by rousing the interest of sleepy youngsters, half stifled by changing outdoor air for that of school. Thrashing was frequent. Some thought it quickened the circulation and helped the brain's action. It did not matter much if the wrong boy was punished. He needed it according to the belief of some teachers and of some parents. The curriculum was limited to the three R's, and those thoroughly mastered made a key to many temples further on.

Mrs. Irwin says that James Mason was the first teacher in Franklin. This was in 1801. The schoolhouse was of unhewn logs, situated on the public square opposite the "United States Hotel." It was floored with puncheons, smoothed slightly. For light a log had been cut out the length of one side and the space filled with oiled paper. Pens were made of goosequills and ink from oak bark boiled with a little copperas. The school probably helped the boys and girls in the right direction if they were heading that way. The desks were long puncheon planks, fastened at a slant to the wall, with a bench in front. When the children were tired they could turn and rest their backs against the sharp, rough edge of the puncheon. The master boarded round.

Alexander McCalmont is the next teacher mentioned by Mrs. Irwin. He was afterward Judge McCalmont. It was probably the natural trend of his mind, appearing in his relations to his various duties, that his remuneration and tenure of office were all clearly shown in a carefully drawn contract, each party to the contract possessing a copy. He also taught the three R's. The trustees were bound to furnish a suitable building for school and keep it warm. They were to pay two dollars a scholar for every three months and guarantee thirty scholars. Among the patrons were such familiar names as McDowell, Power, Connely, Broadfoot, Plumer, Ridgway, Selders, and Dewoody. When the town was laid out, lands were reserved for school purposes, and were sold later to secure an academy. This was of interest to the whole county. The first academy building was erected on Buffalo street in 1813. John Kelly taught in this building eight years. Robert Ayers, John Sutton and John Gamble were also teachers here. A new academy building of brick was erected in 1854. This was afterward sold to the Evangelical Church and occupied by them as a place of worship.

Afterward the regulation of education was taken over by the State.

These schools used the old books, Webster's Spelling book, the New Testament for reading, followed by Murray's English Reader, Pike's or Daboll's arithmetic. There was no grammar, except that which walked around the school room; and that might have been of the best. "Mark Hopkins on one end of a log and a student on the other end, is a university," said Garfield. The teacher is the school and there were doubtless some good ones in those early days, judging by results appearing later.

#### POSTAL SERVICE

For a time the county was without post routes. In 1802 the first United States mail came into the county. It was carried on horseback in saddlebags and came once in three weeks, bringing very few letters, and no newspapers, only as scraps might be cut out and enclosed. Postage was according to distance. The route was from Pittsburgh to Erie.

Mr. Ash was the first carrier. He arrived punctually once in three weeks—except when the water was high or the snow deep. Mr. Ash later carried the mail from Meadville to Franklin. People watched for him to take their letters to the mail. It was generally understood that the carriers and post officials opened all the letters and read them, they had all the news. If the early settlers wrote anything of special importance they used a secret code. Afterward Mr. Houser carried the mail on horseback from Warren to Franklin and back. Incidentally it may be remarked that more mail enters and leaves Franklin every twenty-four hours of this year of grace than entered the whole county and departed from it during the first twenty-four years of her history.

#### FINANCIAL EXCHANGE

There were no banks here before 1860. This made the transmission of money rather difficult. It is said that a one-hundred-dollar bill was sometimes indentured, or cut by a very crooked line into two parts, one part sent at a time, and then the two parts were pasted together when received. It has also been said that merchants packed their Spanish dollars in saddlebags and rode with them across the mountains to Philadelphia, or took all their funds with them in their trunks by stage, and that robberies were rare. Holdups by highwaymen were very frequent throughout our

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whole country at that time. The few robberies committed along the road to Philadelphia in those early times speak well of the care of our merchants for their property, and reveal a good deal about the character of those early Pennsylvania highwaymen.

### PIONEER PRODUCTIONS

The pioneers were near to nature. It hardly seems possible that the residents of this county were recently so near to her that they received her gifts direct into their hands, and by their own work converted them into the necessities of civilized life. A long line of "middle-men" now stands between any original product of nature and the ultimate consumer, for instance from the silk worm to the dress, or from flax to fine linen or from the sheep's fleece to woolen fabrics and garments. Thousands of

helpers are now along all these main lines, hastening the rate of progress and refining the results. A modern dinner may require hundreds of such lines, each line its thousands. But in former times here, a man and his wife occupied all these intermediate places as well as the extremes of producer and consumer. He produced the wool and the flax; she prepared them for the spindle, spun them into thread, wove them into fabrics, fashioned them into garments. As for modern dinners, they did not have them; but good digestion did wait on appetite, and did not have to hesitate. A Robinson Crusoe flavor lingers round the pioneer life. As its participants entered the sunset years, they may have seen in the mellow light of memory that all the incidents of their past, trials, triumphs, successes, failures, were alike "good" and have been satisfied.

## CHAPTER IV

### ROADS—BRIDGES—STREAMS

#### **FIRST PUBLIC HIGHWAYS—OLD FRENCH MILITARY ROAD—ROADS AND PROGRESS—ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNTY—STATE ROADS—WATERFORD AND SUSQUEHANNA TURNPIKE—MEAD'S WAR TRAIL—OIL ROADS—SALINA AND LAYTONIA TURNPIKE—PRESENT ROADS—WATERWAYS AND COMMERCE—MILITARY IMPORTANCE DURING WAR OF 1812—BRIDGES—THE ALLEGHENY RIVER AND FRENCH CREEK**

Roads are almost as necessary to the evolution of a remote settlement as are the settlers themselves. A company isolated, surrounded by desolate spaces, "the world forgetting and by the world forgot," is likely to revert to ancient types; and if the individuals are also isolated, each within his own square mile or two, and intercommunication becomes difficult and infrequent, the reversion will take place more rapidly, in greater variety, and produce a medley of discordant types. In unity there is sameness as well as strength.

The founder of the Commonwealth must have recognized this. He placed in all land grants generous allowances of extra territory for road making, so that the settler did not have to sacrifice his acres for this public good. The State continued this policy, and enjoined it upon the land companies. After two and a quarter centuries, this gleam from the "inner light" by which the great Founder was guided still leads new paths through the forest.

#### **FIRST PUBLIC HIGHWAYS**

The first public highways were waterways. The State by act of Assembly, March 21, 1798, declared the Allegheny river and French creek public highways. This forever keeps riparian proprietors from collecting tolls, as was the custom then and later upon Old World waterways. The colonists had not traveled beyond the reach of the State's protecting arm. The State in 1817 appropriated one thousand dollars to improve the Allegheny river for purposes of navigation. The settlers were thus, from the very first, assured of an open way to other settlements and toward the places of their earlier homes.

#### **OLD FRENCH MILITARY ROAD**

Of roads overland, there was one, probably built by the French for military use in 1754, from Franklin to Presque Isle. This was laid out by surveyors, following probably an Indian

trail. It led along easy grades and was much shorter than the winding way by French creek. Its line was the shortest one practicable between the two places. In a report of Thomas Brull, an Indian spy, sent by the Colonial forces to ascertain the strength of the French forces, as transcribed by Col. Hugh Mercer, March 17, 1759, we find: "The road is trod and good from Venango to Le Boeuf, and from thence to Presque Isle, about half a day's journey, is low and swampy and bridged most of the way." From Franklin this road passed through the central part of Sugarcreek and the western part of Oakland and entered Plum township in the northwestern part of the county. Crossing Plum by way of Sunville and Chapmanville, it entered the northeast corner of Crawford county. Thence it extended along the eastern parts of Troy, Steuben and Athens townships to the northeast corner of Rockdale township, on the northern boundary of Crawford. This old road was an unexpected gift to the colonists from those who had attempted to grasp this continent for feudalism and the glory of Louis XIV. It typifies the forces arrayed against the English Colonies in the eighteenth century, the French and the Indians. It also illustrated the methods of those forces, the widening into military sources by French science of the short narrow trails of Indian instinct. It would add interest to the parts of this old highway now following the original course to have markers erected thereon, showing that these are parts of the old French and Indian road of 1754, Franklin to Presque Isle. The course of this road was changed in a number of places soon after the settlement of the county.

#### ROADS AND PROGRESS

The avenues of commerce are an undoubted evidence of the state of society. The conveyance of products, facile and expeditious communication as well as the movements of armies, require an unobstructed highway, and in proportion to progress, travel increases, and the channels of exchange are improved. The aborigines used for centuries, probably, the narrow paths branching from a great western trail, but in the movements against their foes traversed the streams and studied strategy and ambuscade. The trail through the forest, and the light canoe upon the lake and river, were ample for the red men, and their ability to use them was marvelous. They could follow trails, or streams, and knowing the portages, through the woods or across deserts for miles,

could float down through days and nights and recognize the right inlet to take up stream among many looking all alike to a civilized man. All these changes were made without compass, chart, or memorandum. The Indians had this capacity. No white man ever attained it except by years of life among the native red men. When the European first trod this portion of Pennsylvania he found narrow well beaten trails traversing the forests in various directions. Between native villages they showed frequent travel, and led away to other tribes or lost themselves at the borders, or at favorite hunting and fishing grounds.

From the forts of the Ohio on both sides of the Allegheny were trails extending to Venango. These were well known ancient paths. From Franklin a famous trail extended north on the west side of the river to the heart of the Iroquois country, much used by the Senecas, Shawanese and Delawares. This was the path, in all probability, utilized by the French to Waterford in 1754, as a military road, bridging thence to Presque Isle; their surveyors could not have found a shorter or easier one. Trust the Indians' instinct at work for generations! At points along this pathway trails led off right and left. An important branch extended along the west bank of the river connecting several important native villages. The main path seemed to form a branch of the great western trail leading along the shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie. The path that extended from Venango up French creek via Custaloga's Town was worn deep into the soil, formed a junction with the western part just mentioned, and was used by the Senecas and Munceys (a tribe of Delawares). A trail westward from Franklin was used by the Delawares, Shawanese, and other western tribes. From the southeast a trail, after crossing creeks, rivers and mountains, reached Venango. The track was well beaten, so its use was clearly shown. This was a favorite route for some of the tribes of the Senecas and Delawares. It seemed to form a junction with the noted trail north from Franklin. It will be remembered that the Senecas were the keepers of the "western gate" of the Long House of the Six Nations, and were therefore the overlords of all the native tribes in Pennsylvania. They would have overland ways to all parts of this State, as well as waterways.

The settlers used a number of these trails in coming to Venango. Later, and for a number of years, the roads were only the old trails enlarged. The trees were cut out, the brush cleared, but the stumps were left to time and

the weather. The settlement of a new country in the neighborhood of an old one is not attended with much difficulty, because supplies can be readily obtained. But the settlement of a country remote from any cultivated region is a very different thing, because at the outset food, raiment and the implements of husbandry are obtained only in small supplies and with great difficulty. The task of making new establishments in a remote wilderness in a time of profound peace is sufficiently difficult; but when, to the unavoidable hardships attendant on this business, those resulting from furious warfare with savages are superadded, toil and sufferings are carried to the full extent of man's power of endurance. Such was the condition of our forefathers in making their settlement here. To their other troubles, the Indian was a weighty addition. This destructive warfare they were compelled to sustain almost single-handed, because of the lack of communication between the East and the West, owing to the lack of highways in other words. They were three or four weeks' travel away from the centers of population, in time required to make the round trip. They must have felt the need of roads, roads and roads; as in later times, we have heard the call for ships and ships. Their interest in road construction would naturally be keen and increasing.

There is great power in outside, vacant, difficult space surrounding a little isolated band of people engaged in the indescribable task of trying to adapt the primary gifts of nature to their acute needs. On one distant side of them are their old homes, with clustering memories almost the only connecting links. On all other sides is the unknown, with lurking dangers. This space power pushes them together. They are social, they are religious. They are striving to better their condition. They hope to leave to their children a free, enlightened community, blessed with churches and schools, and all the instruments of civilization inherent in a state of self-respecting, equal, helpful citizens. Therefore the pathways between their separated log dwellings, whether they are within sight, or miles apart, are well worn by their footprints, or by their "stone boats" of dugout logs, or by their "sled cars." The more these paths are worn, the closer are the settlers' hearts drawn together, the harder is the push upon them of the outside.

#### ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNTY

Very early in their history, the founders of the county turned their attention to the im-

provement of highways connecting the centers of settlements, or localities that promised to become such center—as a grist or hominy mill, or a blacksmith shop, or a store, or where hides could be tanned. At the first term of court a number of petitions were presented for the opening of public roads. In a comparatively short time, a number of trails had become passable highways, bridges had been built across the smaller streams, the roads along the ravines had been protected by dikes, and rude ferries were at the crossings of the river and of the larger creeks. It is probable that log roads or "corduroy" highways were constructed in the early times here, as they have been in other sections; though there seem to be no traces of them at present. They are still to be found in many parts of other States. They were noticeable improvements when used.

In General Irvine's report upon the donation lands in 1785, the "Path leading to French creek" from Pittsburgh is mentioned. This path coincided with the general course of the State road afterward opened between these two points and commonly called the Pittsburgh road. This term has also been applied to two principal roads converging at Springville, in Victory township, one passing through Clintonville in Clinton township, the other through Mechanicsville in Irwin township.

The road known at an early date as the Oil Creek road, from Franklin to Titusville, was probably laid out by authority of Crawford county court. It passed through the village of Cherrytree and several miles southeast of Dempseytown, but its original course has been changed in a number of places.

A petition was presented at the first term of the Court of Quarter Sessions, Dec. 16, 1805, setting forth the necessity of a public road from Franklin to the Mercer county line near Robert Henderson's to intersect a road opened from the town of Mercer. This was the first road petition considered by the court after the organization of the county. Samuel Dale, Robert Henderson, John Lindsay, Caleb Crane, Sr., George Power and Alexander McDowell were appointed to consider it, and reported favorably at the June session, 1806. The supervisors were then directed to open the road according to distances and courses recommended. The survey was made by Colonel Dale. This is known as the Franklin and Mercer road, and is one of the most important in the county.

The road from Emlenton to intersect "the great road from Scrubgrass meeting house to Franklin" at Moses Perry's field (Lisbon) was

laid by Thomas Baird, James Scott, Robert Blair, Moses Perry, William Crawford and Samuel Jolly, and confirmed at September term, 1806.

In 1806 another road was confirmed at December term. This had been laid out by Samuel Dale, David Martin, William Milford and Patrick Jack, from Robert Mitchell's tract on the line of Butler county to intersect the Franklin road at William Lyon's. At the same term was also confirmed the road from White Oak Springs, Butler county, to the Franklin road, near John DeWoody's, laid out by James Martin, Jr., Samuel Plumer, Caleb Crane and James Martin, Sr.

In March, 1807, was confirmed the road from John Lindsay's mill on Mill creek to Franklin, intersecting a road from James Adams' mill to that town, laid out by Alexander Johnston, James Martin, Jr., James McLaren, David Blair, George King and James Martin, Sr.

#### STATE ROADS

Before 1800 the legislature provided for a State road from Milesburg, Center county, to Waterford, Erie county, but no appropriation was provided for the completion of the western part of its course till 1810. The disposition of the sum then provided was placed in the hands of the county commissioners. Similar provision was made for the State road from Butler to Meadville. The preparation made by the commissioners to expend the appropriation is shown by the following extracts from their minutes of Sept. 13, 1811:

Agreeably to an act of Assembly, entitled "An act making appropriations for certain internal improvements," the commissioners after having viewed the following roads in Venango county, viz., the State road leading from Butler to Meadville, and the State road leading from Milesburg to Waterford, or such parts of the same as lie in said county, have made agreement with the following persons to do and perform certain pieces of work thereon, viz.:

On the Butler road leading to Meadville, John Boner agrees to dig a certain space at the rate of sixteen dollars, James Davidson agrees to bridge and dig a certain distance of said Butler road for the sum of one dollar and fifty cents, at the run called Bullion's run.

Archibald Davidson agrees to bridge a certain part of said road between Scrubgrass and Samuel Grimes at twelve dollars.

Adam Taylor agrees to cut open and bridge a certain part of said road near Irwin township line at seventeen dollars.

William Dewoody agrees to dig a certain part of said road on the south side of Sandy creek hill at sixty-nine cents per perch.

John Dewoody agrees to dig a certain part of said road adjoining the above at seventy-eight per perch.

Luther Thomas agrees to cut and open a part of said road near Crawford county line at one dollar; also four perches of bridging at one dollar and twenty-five cents per perch; also a piece of digging at one dollar, and a piece of digging, etc., two hills at three dollars.

On the road leading from Milesburg to Waterford Charles Holeman agrees to dig sixteen perches on the river hill at seventy-five cents per perch.

William Hays agrees to dig a part of said road on the north side of Three Mile run at forty cents per perch.

Isaac Connely agrees to dig a part of said road on the north side of Hemlock creek at fifty cents per perch.

William Hays agrees to dig and open a part of said road on the south side, Hemlock creek, at forty cents per perch.

Samuel McHattan and Alexander Ayres agree to open and bridge a part of said road near Hicks' cabin at eight dollars.

Charles Holeman agrees to open and dig a part of said road at sixty-six cents per perch for digging and a reasonable price for any part that may be opened.

Samuel McHattan and Alexander Ayres agree to open and dig a part of said road at fifty-seven cents a perch on the north side of Little Toby's creek.

Alexander McElhaney agrees to bridge a part of said road supposed to be twenty-six rods at ninety-nine cents per perch, and to open and repair at a reasonable price.

Samuel McHattan and Alexander Ayres agree to dig and open a part of said road on Toby's creek hill at twenty-four and a half cents a perch.

The road from Milesburg to Waterford crossed the Allegheny at Alexander Holeman's as originally laid out. Its course through this county has been vacated to such an extent that it would be difficult to indicate it by present landmarks. It was an important and much traveled thoroughfare. The road leading from Franklin through the villages of Salem City and Ten-Mile Bottom, in Cranberry township, and thence on through Pinegrove to Fryburg, was the only other highway of importance opened through the county at an early date under State auspices.

The road from Franklin to the mouth of Oil creek, laid out by William Martin, George King, James Martin, Sr., and John Snow, was confirmed at December term of Quarter Sessions, 1807. The old Warren road crossed Oil creek at Rynd Farm and thence pursued a circuitous route through Cornplanter and Allegheny townships. Frequent changes in its course rendered this a direct route between Franklin and Warren, as near as the irregular surface of the country allowed.

#### WATERFORD AND SUSQUEHANNA TURNPIKE MEAD'S WAR TRAIL

The first public improvement made by a body organized for that purpose was the

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Waterford and Susquehanna Turnpike. It was surveyed by General Mead in accordance with an act of the legislature, and was called Mead's War Trail. It was resurveyed in 1818. The company was incorporated by act of legislature Feb. 22, 1818, and commissioners were appointed to receive subscriptions for stock. In Venango county William Moore and George Power were appointed to serve, and the amount of stock apportioned to this county was three hundred shares at par value of twenty-five dollars. One hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars was the share allotted to the State, for which amount the governor was authorized to subscribe, one hundred thousand dollars for that part of the line between the Allegheny and the Susquehanna, and the remainder for that part between Franklin and Waterford. As a basis of apportionment, the expense of constructing a section five miles east and west of the Allegheny was taken. The route led from Waterford through Meadville and Franklin to the Susquehanna, to the mouth of Anderson's creek in Clearfield county. It used in its route a large portion of the Indian trails leading to the Susquehanna. The width of the roadway was prescribed to be sixty feet, except the portions artificially constructed, which should be twenty feet. Tolls were authorized upon each section five miles long, as soon as completed and approved. The condition governing the State appropriation was that two thousand shares should be subscribed by private individuals within three years. The business depression caused by the War of 1812-15 rendered compliance with this condition impossible. The time was extended three years for obtaining subscriptions; still the condition was met with difficulty, and only by combinations among the communities most affected. It is said that one impecunious tailor, without property or credit, was induced at a public meeting in Meadville to become the nominal owner of seven hundred and fifty shares of the stock, thus helping materially the acceleration of the work. The necessary subscriptions had been received in January, 1816. The survey was finished in October, 1818, contracts were let in the same year for sections of the road, and in 1820 the entire line was open to travel. In this county the course is through the townships of Rockland, Cranberry, Sugar-creek and Canal. East Sandy creek is crossed at the village of the same name, the Allegheny river and French creek at Franklin, and Sugar creek some distance above its mouth. The longest distance in its course between the terminal points, where the road makes a straight

level line, is from the summit of the hill below Franklin to Salina, nearly five miles. The Waterford and Erie turnpike had been constructed in 1809, and this great thoroughfare, completed in 1824, extended to Philadelphia. It was continued for a number of years as a toll road, but becoming unprofitable, it was turned over to the townships through which it passes.

## OIL ROADS

The necessity for improved roads for the transportation of oil led to the construction of several lines of turnpike and plank roads, during 1860 and for several years following. An act was passed Feb. 19, 1862, incorporating a turnpike from the mouth of Oil creek to Franklin. This names Thomas H. Martin, Arnold Plumer, W. M. Epley, Thomas Hoge, James Bleakley, Richard Irwin, S. P. McCalmont, George H. Bissell, J. L. Hanna, C. Heydrick, William Hilands, Joseph Shaefer, P. McGough, James Wilson, C. C. Waldo, M. W. Kelsey, William Hasson, Sam. Q. ~~Brown~~ and Robert Lamberton as the corporators. The construction was begun May 19, 1862, under Miles W. Sage as superintendent. This road was operated for a few years as a toll road, and did an enormous business. It was the main avenue by which the greater part of the oil production along Oil creek could reach Franklin, the terminal of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad at that time. It is said the lines of teams were continuous along its course, and that two men were required to collect the tolls. It was abandoned as soon as other outlets were provided, but it proved a very profitable venture for its stockholders.

The second road to be built to meet the emergency caused by the production of oil was the Titusville and Pithole plank road. This was constructed in the summer of 1865 by Sam Q. Brown, William H. Abbott, F. W. Ames and Oliver Keese; but the company was not incorporated till March 2, 1866. The road was first built, the charter obtained later. The need was too urgent to admit waiting for legislation. This road led from Titusville to Pithole City by way of Pleasantville. There were at this time thousands of persons from all parts of the country, seeking to see their own faces glorified in the rainbow tints of the bubbles at Pithole. This venture, though a double track was laid at great expense, was highly successful. A similar road was also laid between Miller Farm and Pithole, passing through the Shamburg region. This road has

been entirely abandoned. The Titusville and Pithole road is still continued between Titusville and Pleasantville, formerly as a toll road, but lately turned over to the care of the townships through which it passes. Between Pleasantville and Pithole it has been discontinued.

#### SALINA AND LAYTONIA TURNPIKE

The Salina and Laytonia Turnpike Company was chartered March 25, 1864. A macadamized road connected the designated termini. The company consisted of Thomas M. Parker, William Gates, Henry Mays, William L. Lay, C. B. McKinney, James S. Johnston, W. H. Steffee and William Cartwright. This highway was continued a number of years as a toll road. It is now free to the public. It was for years the only turnpike in the county, as the plank road from Titusville to Pleasantville was the only one of that kind.

#### PRESENT ROADS

There are now hundreds of miles of roads in the county superior to either one of these in its palmiest days, and all free, all belonging to the public. All roads are now cared for by the township, or the county, or by the State Highway Commission, or by a combination of all three. Generally speaking, inter-State roads are cared for by the State alone; inter-county roads by the counties concerned, assisted by the State; while some roads between important points are taken over in their upkeep one-half by the State and one-fourth each by the county and townships along the line. There are very good roads reaching to every point of the county, if one is familiar with the way. The last twelve or fifteen years, the era of the automobile, have been more prolific in the production of good roads than was the whole preceding century. We have turnpikes macadamized and paved roads, all good, and pleasant to travel over; some cared for exclusively by townships are as good as any. The mileage of good roads is increasing constantly. The sentiment back of them is getting stronger every year. Venango has no roads paved only with good intentions. The intention has not been possible for those yet unpaved; it will come. Patriotism is also a splendid spur in the interest of good roads. In these latter days, more than ever before, the people have come to a full realization of the absolute necessity and unending utility of durable highways ex-

tending to every nook and corner of a common country.

#### WATERWAYS AND COMMERCE

The most useful in general of early highways were the waterways. The Allegheny river and French creek, and a few lesser streams, may well be considered as the parents of the early commerce of the county. Water carriage is incomparably cheaper than any other in handling heavy commodities like lumber, coal, iron, or munitions of war. How our early settlers could have marketed their lumber and other produce by overland carriage is unthinkable. The navigation of the Allegheny river may be said to begin with the expedition of Céloron in 1749. It is also well established that La Salle, in 1669-70, and Father Hennepin a few years later, came down the Allegheny and visited a number of places in this territory. During French occupation French creek was also utilized in military operations and movements. Military purposes continued to be the end subserved by the navigation of these streams under English rule. But under American authority, and in subservience to the needs of the American colonists, these streams acquired commercial importance. As early as 1790 an appropriation of four hundred dollars was made for the improvement of French creek to Le Boeuf. The principal exports down the creek were peltries and grain or its products, flour and whiskey, which were loaded on flatboats and taken to Pittsburgh and other river points. The transportation of salt was also an important industry. The supply was obtained at Salina, N. Y., hauled in wagons to Buffalo, brought in sailing vessels to Erie, transported by ox teams to Waterford by way of the old French road, and was loaded on flatboats for shipment to points on French creek, and the Allegheny and Ohio rivers. The Crawford *Weekly Messenger* of Dec. 12, 1805, states that "eleven flat-bottomed and six keel-boats passed this place during the last freshet in French creek—the former carrying on the average one hundred and seventy, and the latter sixty barrels of salt each, making in the whole two thousand, two hundred and thirty barrels." In the issue of Jan. 1, 1807, is the statement that "during the last rise in French creek twenty-two Kentucky boats or arks passed Meadville loaded with salt and carrying four or five thousand barrels of salt." Under date of Nov. 23, 1809, it is said that "there are at present at Waterford upward of fourteen

thousand barrels of salt, or over seventy thousand bushels, waiting for a rise in the waters" in order to descend to Pittsburgh and points on the Ohio. This traffic did not cease till 1819, when salt wells were sufficiently developed on the Kiskiminitas and Kanandea to supply the demand.

#### MILITARY IMPORTANCE DURING WAR OF 1812

During the War of 1812, navigation via the Allegheny and French creek contributed in a great degree to Perry's victory on Lake Erie. It is almost impossible to conceive how this victory could have been achieved had these waters been closed. The British commanded the Lakes. Perry's fleet was building in the woods along shore, from timbers as they were cut from the growing trees. The builders were ordinary carpenters under direction of Perry's officers; ship carpenters could not be obtained. In the meantime, all munitions, supplies and fittings for the ships were being pushed up the Allegheny and French creek in flatboats, by men wading backwards in the water with their shoulders against the boats, moving a step at a time with a "*heave-yo, heave.*" At times, when the boat's movement was beyond the power of human backs or hands, lines were made fast to trees up-stream, tightened by captains aboard, then with yell and heave, and snapping lines and slipping men, inches were gained. The British were astonished, and no wonder, when the ships appeared to sail right out of the forest. They were still more astonished later by the work of those ships. The men with their backs to the boats for weeks in the waters of the Allegheny and French creek contributed to that victory as did the powder blackened, half-naked men in the ships; and the spirit ruling their spirits contributed most of all.

At a later date and until the opening of railroads through this part, farm produce of every description, and lumber in large quantities, were shipped from Erie, Mercer, Crawford and Venango counties. Crafts of various kinds continued to navigate the river until the Allegheny Valley railroad was completed.

#### BRIDGES

As stated above, the smaller streams were bridged along the courses of the highways as they were completed. In this matter the many surveyors of a better class than most communities possessed in those times must have been of great assistance. In addition to the

county surveyors and their deputies, the State employed several very competent ones to divide the donation lands, and to assist otherwise in the location of settlers upon their allotments. There were Gen. William Irvine and Andrew Ellicott, accompanied by a corps of surveyors, who laid out the town of Franklin in 1795. There were also Richard Irwin, Col. Alexander McDowell, and Col. Samuel Dale. General Mead was not out of reach, and made the survey for the Susquehanna and Waterford turnpike. All these men and their successors knew the country and could be depended upon to furnish the roadmakers and bridgebuilders of early days with the best of expert advice or assistance obtainable at that time.

At the opening of the nineteenth century the building of a cantilever, or a high truss or a suspension bridge across such a chasm as that of the Allegheny would have appeared to the colonists about as feasible as the erection of a Jacob's ladder with "angels descending and ascending" upon it. At this time there were very few bridges across the larger streams in the whole country, and the ferries were among the chief hindrances and dangers of travel. One going from Boston to Philadelphia at this time would cross the Connecticut at Springfield, the Housatonic at Stratford, the Hudson at New York, the Hackensack and Passaic between Jersey City and Newark, the Raritan at New Brunswick, the Delaware at Trenton, and the Neshamong at Bristol, on what were then called ferryboats. The crossing of any of these streams was attended by much discomfort and danger. The terrors of the ferryboats, and the accidents by no means uncommon, the great distance of the road from help in solitary places, made a journey of any distance in those days an event to be remembered to the end of one's days. Such was the crude state of engineering that no bridge of any considerable length had been undertaken in the States. No large river had yet been spanned. The bridge over the Charles river, between Charlestown and Boston, was the first of importance in the Colonies. Its opening in 1786 was looked upon as the culmination of a great feat of engineering. The builder, Cox, made such a reputation by his work that he was called to Ireland to build the bridge at Londonderry. He used on this structure American timber and workmen.

The first bridges across the Allegheny and French creek were built by companies incorporated by acts of Assembly, and were all toll bridges at first. The bridges across the creek were the first to be made free. It is only within the last few years that those crossing the Alle-

gheny have been taken over by the county and the tolls abolished. The county now realizes, as the State at large does, that the public must really provide for the cost of a toll bridge whether it possesses the title or not; and it may continue paying toll for using its own property long after it has paid both principal and interest of the primary cost, and all expenses. Nevertheless, the original toll bridges were doubtless necessary in their time.

At present there are six bridges across the Allegheny owned by the county and free to the public. There are also nearly three hundred other bridges, owned by the townships or by the county. Two bridges spanning the river belonging to the Traction Company between Franklin and Oil City still take tolls for vehicles.

In glancing back upon the methods of travel used by this county a century ago, and following the improvements of decades, one might think that Venango was "behind the times." Yes, but what times? She is not behind at present in methods of travel, or in ways of doing anything that she attempts to do. Comparing her past with others during the same periods, Venango may say with becoming modesty that her progress has been even more rapid than that of the average community.

#### THE ALLEGHENY RIVER AND FRENCH CREEK

In speaking of the ancient Allegheny, in a former chapter, reference was made to the time when the course of the river was determined by slight depressions among the hills and the water began its gigantic work of excavating the vast chasm through which it runs. The evidence is very clear that the river once flowed along the tops of the present banks. In addition to that given in the former chapter, a few more reasons for this belief are stated. Back of Siverly, in an opening between high hills, is a bed of fine river gravel sixty-five feet thick. The bottom of the gravel is at least two hundred and fifty feet above the present river, and the bed extends for two hundred or more feet in length. Over fifty years ago an oil well was started here. The gravel had to be cribbed for the sixty-five feet, as a tube could not be forced through it. Below this were several feet of sesqui-oxide of iron or "red paint." There are also beds of sand in layers among the openings in the drift-hills along the tops of the river bank. There are also sand and gravel banks two hundred and fifty to three hundred feet above the river on the south side. The beds of gravel and sand

on Cottage Hill, three hundred feet above the river, were mentioned in the former chapter. We find the same gravel and sand beds at Reno, near the tops of the slanting land. At Franklin, back of the McIntosh place, there are sand beds hundreds of feet long, and probably one hundred and fifty feet thick, with their tops two hundred and fifty feet above the river. In French creek valley, on the left bank especially, are sand bars and gravel along the top for more than a mile above the mouth. Opposite the entrance of French creek, across the river, the soil, sand and gravel mostly is from fifty feet deep, near the river, to a hundred and fifty further away from the channel. This condition extends below the Big Rock bridge. In the creek valley, where Franklin is, the soil is fifty to seventy-five feet deep. Just above the upper bridge the water has cut a bluff in the solid layered soil about fifty feet high. An old county bill for digging a well in the West Park shows that the well was forty-four feet and ten inches deep. This was the celebrated diamond well whose clear, cool water was pleasing to the palates of early Franklin residents.

The detritus along the tops has every appearance of being deposited by water. The sesqui-oxide is usually found in layers deposited from water which has become supersaturated. Sand from water is always in layers. Gravel is sorted into coarse and fine at the same level by water, the coarse particles being dropped first, or moved slowest. It may be assumed therefore that these materials were carried by water to their present positions, or by some other agency which arranged them as if they had been so carried; but the latter part of the supposition is impossible, for the conditions prevail not only to the extent referred to, but to rivers the world over. Suppose, therefore, the river to be four hundred feet above its present level at Oil City, it would set back two hundred feet above Warren, and extend up the Conewango nearly to Chautauqua Lake; here it would find sand and gravel to wash and roll down to Oil City and to produce the gravel and sand beds in the eddying or backward currents between the hills at this place and at Reno. The water would also extend two hundred feet above Titusville, but would rest against the steep slope of the Summit between that place and Mayville. As the water gradually became lower at Oil City, that against the slope of the Summit would rapidly descend between the hills outlining the Oil creek valley, which are rocky and close together. There are places on both sides of Oil

creek where the backed-up waters were on the hilltops and formed some high, thin, level meadows, and other spots where rather wide gullies were washed out, now occupied by little runs; and when the waters had backed into a series of springs, like Cherry run, a good-sized piece of flatland was produced. But always there were the high hills, hard, and close together, which at the very end produced a valley having over eleven feet fall to the mile, narrow and rapid, with very little flat land in the bends. As a soil maker, both the going out of the waters and their return to the river are disappointing. When the water was standing or slowly moving in the eddy at Franklin, three hundred feet above its present level, it could have backed up through the hills which formed the present valley of French creek, at least two hundred feet above Meadville. But there were many square miles of flat meadows over which it spread, and where it would stand for ages, as we now reckon time, before the hundreds of feet of solid rocks wore away. These meadows were formed by glacial grinding in a former period. The same agent also produced Conneaut and Sugar Creek lakes and the extensive flat lands surrounding them. These, with their level lands, were also inundated. It was a baptism in a faith sure in promise and fulfillment of better things. At the river eddy at Franklin the hold-up waters are swinging in circles around and among the hilltops of the banks, leaving stratified beds of detritus, sand, orange-tinted as it always is from glacial action, rounded gravel from the same source, and stony clay. On the river bank opposite, the same slow-whirling stream is leaving thick beds of soil. In the meantime, the mouth of the creek is made nearly half a mile wide, the valley itself is also widened, and all the valleys entering it. Sugar Creek valley has its present fine form outlined at the top, to be worked downward later. All branches of Sugar creek are widened, the lake branch and the others have their wide foundations laid at the top, except those reaching into the high rocky lands of Plum. Very slowly the river rocks wear away, the waters in the valleys above descend into the narrower beds, and during the silent centuries persuade them to widen out. Finally the river with its insistent pressure wears away the rock strata, and the water leaves the valleys so gently that the rich deposits of soil along the bottoms are not disturbed. French creek

valley is one of Nature's masterpieces, not of grandeur, but of haunting loveliness. Many stupendous forces worked together here to pack great riches into little space. All the conditions were favorable, the glaciers, the small grade toward the confluence of less than four feet to the mile, and the slow recession into the river of the waters above. At the same time the sister valley of Sugar creek was fashioned. The excellence of this lesser valley extended to a number of her affluents. The whole is a paradise. At the entrance, well within the garden, sits historic Franklin.

During this period the same work was going on throughout the county. The river was in fact a great lake covering the county, except the higher hills, and much contiguous country besides. The same results that have been described were coming about in all the streams landlocked by the encircling hills. Sandy lake was covered and many fine acres were deposited, vivified and drained by South and Little Sandys. In Irwin, Clinton and Scrubgrass townships are many flat acres of rich land due to the creeks of those townships. East Sandy worked out to its finger tips at Centerville, and along its whole body. Up the river, Hemlock creek and Porcupine run, and Stuarts, made some fine additions to the assets of the county.

This was the last work of the river on a great scale, for the benefit of the land before she descended into the mystery of the chasm and took her independent way to the ocean. What were some of the results besides those referred to? The architecture of the valleys. They were made larger in every way, from the top downward always, than the little streams destined to occupy them could have produced, and the small stream was given more room to change sides and help in soil making. But the capital result is the vital connection of all the water courses, even to the smallest rill, the lakes, the marshes, the smallest springs, with the great river, the common mother of them all, and the common magnet of all. She holds every drop of all the waters of the hills, valleys or plains to its old course, established in the old days, over the ground or under it or through the roots and breathing leaves of plants. She draws them all to herself, to go down to the sea. In the days of the overflow, the ways were fixed by which all the waters should ever more seek her to be purified, and should not remain to stagnate.

## CHAPTER V

### TRANSPORTATION—EARLY INDUSTRIES—RAILROADS

LUMBERING AND RAFTING—POND FRESHETS—IRON BUSINESS—FURNACES—EARLY COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS—STEAM NAVIGATION—OIL TRANSPORTATION—RAILROADS

#### LUMBERING AND RAFTING

Timber, in the form of logs, was the most common article which the early settlers possessed to offer in the markets of the world in return for the many things they needed. During the winter months the axes filled the forests with echoes ceasing at intervals in spots till crackling branches and tremendous crash told that another choice pine or chestnut was started southward. These sounds rolled through the hollows, and along the answering hilltops, during the dark winter days; till under the bare branches the uneasy snow itself began to trickle toward the river. Then the axes were exchanged for handspikes, and for rare canthooks, for these men were not well supplied with implements. The men were strong-handed, indomitable, and rich in neighbors for twenty miles around. All these made the circuit of log gathering. There were sometimes oxen present, and perhaps a team of horses. At times, in the first arduous seasons, only the strength of men could be used; but somehow the logs arrived at the chosen spot on the river and were lashed into rafts by withes and pinned together by means of split planks crossing the logs. Some early writers, knowing how few the settlers were, and the scarcity of implements and power for handling such timbers, concluded that these logs must have been warped by the sun from the stumps to the river banks. This was not intended as a joke, but a statement showing simple inability to see how such a thinly settled region could float so many logs to market. But no unusual freak of nature was needed; nothing more mysterious than the wholesome spirit of brotherhood, which also settled in Venango, was back of the many bundles of logs. The men of the country-side arranged to do certain things; they were therefore done. In this way many of tall straight pine trunks were floated to Pittsburgh, Cincinnati or Marietta during the opening years

of the new century to serve as masts for the keelboats which were building even then to take part in the growing commerce of the Mississippi, or the Gulf, or the Great Lakes.

The transportation of lumber, beginning thus early, was aided for many years by primitive watermills and single upright saws, driven by overshot wheels working only at certain stages of water, subject to suspension by ice, flood and drouth. A mill that would cut one hundred thousand feet per annum was considered a good investment. Floating sawed lumber to market in rafts was begun by many of the pioneers in 1801. For "snubbing" and tieing up rafts halliards or cables made of hickory splint links were used for some years, the latter being manufactured by mechanics on the Hickory and the Allegheny. In 1805 a new branch of the business developed, in the boating of seasoned lumber from the Brokenstraw, and intermediate points in this county, to New Orleans. The risks were great, but several trips were made in this and the following years and realized good profits, while a few were losers. Many became engaged in this branch of the business. Of the hands and pilots employed, Marcus Hulings and some others would return by sail vessels to Baltimore, and thence home on foot. "The Propers and some others" are mentioned in an old paper as having made the entire journey home from New Orleans a number of times by walking. The best quality of lumber sold delivered to this distant market as high as forty dollars a thousand.

From the small beginnings, in remote co-operative neighborhoods, the manufacture and transportation of lumber under the management of the Holmans and others on the river, and numbers on the creeks, attained vast proportions. In the springtime "rises" these streams would be almost covered for miles with rafts. New towns had grown up, Louisville, St. Louis, Wheeling and other inter-

mediate cities had opened their markets for lumber in addition to the increasing demands of former markets. Re-action wheels, steam mills, circular and gang saws, replaced the overshot-wheel and solitary single saw, increasing the output from thousands of feet to millions annually. The business of the county varied with the season of the year. In the middle of the winter or summer the region appeared to be very dull; but at the going out of the ice in spring and the subsequent floods, the town and the whole country above on Oil creek, Hickory, French creek, Hemlock and the Allegheny seemed to be alive with the bustle and preparation of the lumbermen. Large rafts followed one another in succession down the Allegheny. Smaller ones were coming down the creeks, and halting in the eddies, to be coupled into rafts of immense size, sixty-five to seventy-five feet wide, three hundred feet long, and at least two to three feet thick, the boards or planks packed and bound together. Large boats or "broadhorns," as they were called from the width of their oars, frequently accompanied the fleet. These carried special shipments of seasoned lumber, probably manufactured to answer requirements, as was the custom while this lumber trade was in its prosperous days. The rafts were also supplied with "broadhorns" at bow and stern. These were long, broad planks spiced to lengthy, stout poles at an angle, so that the oar when dipped into the water, would reach no deeper at the end than at the point next to the raft. The heavy craft, having only the speed of the current, could not be steered, as a boat having propelling power could. So when a change from side to side of the current was necessary to safety, as was frequent, the mass of boards, enough to load a freight train or two, had to be pulled sidewise across the stream by vigorous working of the sweeps fore and aft, aided by unexpurgated streams of advice from the pilot. Like large floating islands, was the appearance of these strange craft, as they were guided down the difficult passages of the river by their noisy crews. The pilots had to be skillful, quick to meet emergencies; and with a knowledge of the river's bottom from experience, and even from the appearance of the water, that looked like witchery. "A good pilot sees the bed through the swiftest, mudiest water." The high flatboats and rafts were not only articles of commerce at their destination, but they were the common carriers of much merchandise besides. Many articles which the colonists expected to turn

into ready money, floated on the river to Pittsburgh and intermediate points to New Orleans. Frequently their delivery was expected from year to year, by purchasers down stream. There was buckwheat flour, "best in the country" then as now. Maple sugar had always a quick sale, and was plentiful with the settlers. Furs and peltries, smoked hams, pork or venison and dried or jerked meats, also went in this manner, and sometimes, when a careful housewife or two were abroad, as they sometimes were—to care for the purse and supply household needs—there were homespun linen white as snow, and butter from some noted maker, very pleasing to southwestern palates, and other domestic articles for which the women had ready customers.

#### POND FRESHETS

Up some of the creeks, the waters were sometimes too shallow to allow the floating of the lumber collected at the mills along their courses, down to river. This was true to a great extent of Oil creek, for its stream was shallow, owing to its quick downgrade. At the headwaters of this stream there was considerable lumber for many years, ready for the spring drives. Rarely would the water in the stream be sufficient to float out the logs and boards awaiting market. The lumber man therefore resorted to the expedient of raising the water in the stream by what was called a "pond freshet." To produce this required the coöperation of all mill owners and lumber men upon the stream. A "main dam" was chosen or erected upon the stream. At a given date, all the sluiceways of the dams above were opened and the water was collected in the main dam and allowed to run over for a time, till the stream below was at the usual depth. In the meantime the logs or rafts were collected or floated into the basins of the main dam. This was a short distance below Titusville. It was so arranged by means of strong uprights called "brackets" or "splash boards" that on a given signal they could be cut loose and the accumulated waters allowed to flow into the narrow stream of the creek. This furnished an average depth of three feet in the shallowest places and had a duration of nearly four hours. It was sufficient, if things went as expected, to float all the lumber to the river. All the arrangements complete, the raftsmen would be ready to cast off the holding ropes, in order, after the first had started. The splashboards were cut away, the water rushing into the narrow channel. There

was an anxious wait of a few minutes, which must be carefully timed, so that the first raft did not outrun the flood, get fast aground, and wreck all following craft. The first raft must not leave till the flood wave below the dam had ceased to rise or it would outrun the stream and endanger all that followed. When the stream straightened out in an even flood below the dam the exit might begin. The length of these very few minutes of waiting added to the age of those who had spent many days of twelve working hours preparing for this one striking moment. After the first departure the others followed in order and time as arranged. Oil creek is not more than sixty yards in width, and it required a great amount of skill and quick decision to manage these unwieldy craft to avoid collision and great loss of property, as well as danger to life. The sound of the rushing waters, bearing upon their surface the many rafts, the flash of the long blades of the sweeps as they are pulled frantically to right or left to make the turns in the creek, the occasional wreck of some unlucky craft demolished in a moment by the battering rams behind, sometimes followed by a jam and the confusion of the whole run, all these were parts of an intense nerve-testing experience. It is the most rapid, dangerous run of any entering the river. The journey to the mouth of the creek being successful, the sections thus floated were fastened together and joined the fleet going to the market towns along the rivers.

The lumber business reached and passed its apex about the year 1830, it is said. Still every year a number of the old-fashioned "big Allegheny" rafts are seen making their way down the passes of the river. Their number, according to the consensus of testimony available upon the subject, is decreasing steadily year by year. The presence of the broad bright isle of pine, with its inhabitants ranging from the boy of ten to the veteran of sixty, has become rare in the river towns. There are yet some of the monarch pines in the forests of Pinegrove and President townships, with trunks five to six feet in diameter and tops two hundred feet high. To see a dozen of them, their massive boles standing apart and reaching upward like great columns lost in the blue above, forces the feeling that here is one of the first temples. A squared stick of solid pine was recently prepared for the European market from one of the trees in this vicinity; it was forty-two feet long and four feet square throughout its length. It cost a small fortune. The Indians would have made a shrine of

that tree, regarding it long in silence, and leaving at its foot some votive offering, perhaps hanging a string of beads upon its branches. Trinkets of various sorts were found sometimes near by, or attached to, these giants. Members of the race, even at the present time, have similar customs springing out of their feeling of the force back of impressive things.

The lumber industry is decreasing, and may disappear before many years. Its development was necessary to the colonists; and it is difficult to see how they could have succeeded in their contest with the wilderness if they had not taken advantage of all the resources that it offered to them.

#### IRON BUSINESS—FURNACES

The iron business had its beginning in the county with the erection of a furnace at the mouth of Oil creek in 1824, and the Anderson furnace in 1825, in Scrubgrass township. It reached flourishing proportions in 1842 under the stimulating influence of a favorable tariff. The county was thought to be very rich in iron ore, and this business was expected to add greatly to its wealth and prestige. In 1847 there were seventeen furnaces in blast, which produced in the aggregate twelve thousand tons of pig iron per annum, having a value at that time of three hundred eighty thousand dollars. This was indeed a goodly sum added to the income of the county. It was also a large item added to the difficult problem of transportation at that time. Water power was utilized, and the fuel employed in reducing the ore was charcoal. This resulted in the destruction of timber in many parts of the county. The amount of capital necessary for one of these furnaces was estimated at twenty thousand dollars. The whole amount invested, when the business was at its height, was probably three hundred and forty thousand dollars.

#### EARLY COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS

The credit system prevailed largely. Merchandise was bought on credit, to be paid for in iron. Labor was remunerated with goods from the furnace stores, which carried an astounding variety of stock, at prices which may again prevail if the present war in Europe continues. An axe cost a laborer in the iron industry five dollars at the store, equal to twelve now at least, if a comparison of wages is made. Calico at fifty rents would now be one dollar and twenty-five cents, and molasses,

at a dollar fifty, should now be rated at four dollars at least. Twenty-five years ago, an old resident who possessed a good farm which his father had settled and cleared during the rearing of a good-sized family, made this remark in reference to the forties and the iron industry: "Those were hard times. We managed to get enough to eat and to wear, such as it was, but we hardly ever saw any money. About every six months, when the iron was sold, the credits at the stores were extended, and everybody had plenty. Then came scrimpin' times again for a month or two." It was suggested that he had a good farm and might have raised corn, buckwheat and pork, as his father did, and have made a profit from the surplus. His reply was that he thought "farmin' was too slow." At that time his farm was producing oil in such quantities that his family are all rich. It is still producing. His farm was a beautiful one, capable of any crop, but so long as this proprietor lived, nothing was raised there except the oil. The proprietor considered "farmin' too slow." He thought that raising crops would interfere with the pump rods running over the fields in all directions. Is the lesson of this man's experience good or bad, or both? Nature seems to have circumvented him.

Turning again to the iron business in Venango county. Some farmers, in good circumstances, entered this industry, and left it penniless. In 1843 there was a rolling mill, including a nail factory, at Franklin; before this establishment closed in 1850 it was producing five tons of bar iron and three tons of nails daily. Why did this business fail? Probably the line of producers was too long, the process wasteful. Collecting the ores in wagons must have been slow and expensive. The structure of the furnaces may not have conserved the heat. The tariff has been blamed—that it was unfavorable or about to become so; but the tariff, whether favorable or otherwise, would have the same effect upon the industry in all parts of the country. The truth would appear to be that this early manufacture could not compete in the open market with the richer ores, more concentrated fuel, and quicker turns of the larger, more active, centers of the business, with their steady advance in processes. It was a brave attempt. But the whole round of the work, from the assembling of materials to the production of the iron, its marketing, and the return of the goods in exchange, on to the time of reckoning the profits, must have seemed like a nightmare. Then there was the loss of interest

or of the use of the things made to be used, but which could not get into the hands of the users for six months, or a year perhaps. No business could carry that burden, intensified by the slow and uncertain means of transportation then in vogue.

#### STEAM NAVIGATION

The first successful navigation of the Allegheny by steam was accomplished in 1828. This event ushered in a marked improvement in the means of communication and of transportation. The following account of the first steamboat is taken from the *Venango Democrat* of March 4, 1828:

"On Sunday the 24th of February, the citizens of this place were somewhat alarmed by the discharge of a field piece down the Allegheny river. Another report soon followed—then the cry 'steamboat!' resounding in all directions, and the citizens, great and small, were seen flocking to the river to welcome her arrival. She proved to be the *William D. Duncan* of 110 tons, Captain Crooks. She left Pittsburgh on Friday at three o'clock P. M., arrived at Kittanning, a distance of forty-five miles, the same evening, left Kittanning at ten A. M., and arrived at this place on Sunday at five P. M., after stopping at Lawrenceburg and other places. The actual time occupied in running the whole distance, one hundred and forty miles, was twenty-eight hours, averaging five miles an hour. We understand she could have made the trip in much less time, but it being the first, her engineer was afraid of applying her full power to the current. She had on board several tons of freight, and about one hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen, from Pittsburgh, Freeport, Kittanning, and Lawrenceburg, as passengers. On Monday morning, a party was got up in town who took an excursion of eight miles up the river to Oil creek furnace for the double purpose of the pleasure of the trip and as a remuneration to the enterprising owners for the visit. She stemmed the current at the rate of between five and six miles an hour, and came down in twenty-one minutes. The day was fine, the trip pleasant, all were highly gratified, and the accommodation was excellent. On Tuesday morning she took her departure for Pittsburgh, where we understand she arrived next morning without meeting a single accident to mar the pleasure of their experiment. We learn that two other boats are making preparations for ascending the Allegheny, and that one of them may be expected here on Friday or Sat-

urday next. It is expected they will ascend the river as far as Warren, for which place, we understand, they have been chartered. This, it is expected, will put an end to the controversy between the citizens of Pittsburgh and Wheeling, who (sic) is located at the head of steamboat navigation."

Steamboats having one wheel at the stern were introduced in 1830, upon the western waters. Two gentlemen of Meadville, Robert L. Porter and David Dick, became interested in the matter and through their influence the "Allegheny" was built in Pittsburgh to test the new theory against the currents of the upper river. The first trip was ventured in April, 1830. Franklin was reached on the 18th of that month, and the voyage continued to Warren. Seven trips, in all, were made that year, in one of which the boat ascended to Olean, N. Y. The stern-wheel boat was found well adapted to the rapid shallow current and crooked channel of the Allegheny.

#### OIL TRANSPORTATION

The only drawback to steamboat navigation was in the fact that such transit was possible for only about one quarter of the year. Nevertheless it aided the development of the county's commerce at the very pinch of greatest need, when the transportation of oil to market was an overflowing and overwhelming necessity. Wharves were built at the mouth of Oil creek, and at convenient points along the Allegheny. Oil City was the natural center for the shipment of oil. The commodity came down the creek in all conceivable ways. At times thousands of barrels have been spilled and floated down on the water, a small part being saved by dipping from the surface, but most of it going down the river to the disgust of the citizens below, whose water supply was drawn from the river, and as an inflammatory menace to shipping and bridges. A small part was drawn down in wagons through the ever-present mud, to continue to Franklin over the "turnpike" at a resounding toll to the shippers but without cost to the railroad, whose terminus was desirable. Much the greater part came down in flatboats in bulk, as it was pumped in at the wells; a portion was in barrels or tanks, or separate compartments. The boats or "scows" came from everywhere, and were as various in size, shape and stability to get through as were the men who managed them. "Pond freshets" were used to float out the boats, managed as they were in the foredays of lum-

bering. At this time Oil creek reached its heyday as a navigable stream. It is doubtful whether at any time in the world's history such a short, shallow, crooked and difficult stretch of running water has carried so great a tonnage as this creek did in its three busiest years. In spite of wanton waste and danger this jostling fleet of strangest craft brought to the mouth of the creek a flood of oil by probably the most picturesque, exciting, slippery, valuable voyages ever accomplished. Such scenes will never be repeated. From the creek the oil was floated in large quantities to Pittsburgh. The steamboats took deckloads of barrels and tanks, and what was of far greater account, took many smaller boats in tow, loaded with oil for the down trip, which they brought back loaded with coal for use at the mills, or with other merchandise. The empty flats were in the meantime towed up the creek for the next "pond freshet."

#### RAILROADS

Much of the oil was carried by rail up the creek from Petroleum Center, or from stations above which had successively been the termini of the Oil creek road. In the early days of railroad transportation, oil was carried in large wooden tanks fastened to flatcars. Iron tanks were a later development. At this time, the greater part of the oil reached the Eastern market by this route, up the creek.

Some time before the discovery of oil authority was conferred upon the Franklin Land Company by the legislature to construct a railway from Franklin to Lake Erie. On the 5th of November, 1849, William Millar began the work of locating the road between Franklin and Meadville, acting as the engineer of the board of directors. In this work he was assisted by C. H. Heydrick of this county. The proposed line began at a point on the turnpike between Elk street and Allegheny bridge, and crossing French creek, crossed Sugar creek four and one-third miles from Franklin, two hundred and forty feet north of the towpath bridge, past the villages of Utica and Cochranton, with a total length of twenty-one miles, eleven hundred and twenty feet, from the Allegheny bridge to the first lock at the outlet of the French creek feeder. The project did not pass beyond this stage.

The charter of the *Sunbury & Erie Railroad Company* authorized the building of a railway from Warren to Beaver by way of Franklin, Mercer and New Castle; this or an extension

of the line to connect with the New York & Erie was regarded as the most practicable route for a road through Venango county. A public meeting was held at the courthouse Feb. 20, 1851. An adjourned meeting was also held at Franklin March 5th, at which Arnold Plumer presided, and after speeches by Alfred B. McCalmont and James Ross Snowden, a number of delegates were appointed to attend a railroad convention at Warren the following summer. It was held on June 5th. A permanent organization was formed, in which this county was represented by E. C. Wilson, vice president, and Myron Park, secretary. Action was taken favorable to building a line from Pittsburgh, to connect with the New York & Erie railroad, two hundred and fifteen miles long.

*The Venango Railroad* was the first projected through this county that had definite promise of realization. It had its inception in the year 1852. It was a local enterprise almost exclusively. The corporators were Arnold Plumer, A. P. Whitaker, E. C. Wilson, Robert Crawford, John Hoge, Thompson Graham, John Forker, Hugh Brawley, George Merriam, Alexander Powers, William McDiel, William F. Clark, and C. V. Kinnear, and a charter was granted by act of the legislature March 30, 1853. On the 25th of June the company was organized by the election of Arnold Plumer, president; J. Porter Brawley, John Hoge, Joel White and Samuel J. Dale, directors. The route proposed was: "Beginning at or near the borough of Franklin in the county of Venango or at the mouth of Big Sugar creek, thence by the most practical route so as to intersect Sunbury and Erie road at any point they may think most advisable, and from any point on said road or route; thence by the best and most practicable route to the coal field near Sandy Lake, Mercer county." The directors were authorized to extend their road to any point on the Allegheny Valley road that might be deemed most advisable. The terms of this charter were exceedingly vague. Only one point was definitely mentioned, Franklin or the mouth of Sugar creek, from which it might extend in any direction, leaving termini and route entirely to the directory of the company. At first it seems to have been regarded as a local road, to connect the Sunbury & Erie with the Allegheny Valley road; but as the discretionary powers of the management were seen to be so extraordinary, and it became understood that the projectors might contemplate building a connecting link in an interstate line, between

the East and the West, in which both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia were ignored, a storm of protest arose in those cities. The legislature at the next session was requested to ascertain by what chicanery and fraud such a combination of ingeniously constructed sentences had acquired the authority of law. No irregularity could be discovered, and the legality of the charter fully secured its privileges.

The line was located by two corps of engineers under the direction of Mr. Appleton, of Boston. The route selected was from Ridgway, Elk county, to Warren, Ohio, by way of Franklin, connecting at the termini with other roads from New York to Council Bluffs, Iowa. A meeting of presidents of various affiliated lines was held at Fort Wayne in December, 1855, Arnold Plumer presiding. A definite consolidation of all interests was effected and named the American Central Railway Company. Public meetings were held throughout the county, and almost every community was represented by subscriptions to the stock. An attempt to have the legislature empower the county to subscribe did not succeed. Work was begun upon the line, but it was discovered that the constructors had been engaged in questionable transactions in Vermont. This put a quietus upon the enterprise. It was a splendid failure. It ought to have succeeded. Its success would have brought honor and wealth to its promoters, and would have hastened the material advancement of this county and the Central West by at least fifty years. They had a fine foundation upon paper and upon the bedrock of the law, upon which a superstructure of any magnitude might have been erected. If only a few miles of track had been completed, to serve as a basis of further credit, in all probability the public would have thronged the line of the road so closely that the business pressing upon it and seeking an outlet through it would have run ahead of the laying of the rails. Such at least has been the history of most of the trunk lines between the East and the West. This would have been perhaps the first great Western line. The first attempts are an important part of the railway history of this country. Great ideas do not die. They pass from hand to hand, like the light from lamps, and in some region, dark before, the light is.

*The Atlantic & Great Western Railroad* was the first railway to enter this county. Prominent citizens of Meadville had been making efforts to obtain a charter for a line connecting the States of New York and Ohio,

which should pass through that city. They did not succeed in these efforts. The Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Company possessed branching rights in its charter that would entitle it to build the proposed line. In the summer of 1852, the different interests were united and a survey of the line was made in the autumn. Ground was first broken south of Meadville, Aug. 19, 1853. Work was suspended in 1854 and not resumed till 1857. Then the franchise was vested in a new corporation, known as the Meadville Railway Company. European capitalists were interested and sent a civil engineer, Mr. T. W. Kennard, in 1858, to report from personal observation. His report, March 10, 1859, led to a change in name from the Meadville railroad, to the Atlantic & Great Western of Pennsylvania, which was opened to Meadville Oct. 22, 1862. The line extended to Franklin May 30, 1863, and on the following Monday, June 1st, the line was formally opened by the arrival of the first train in Franklin, carrying the officials of the road and numerous citizens of Meadville. It was extended to Oil City in March, 1866.

The men who were largely instrumental in securing this first entrance of a railway into the county, were naturally among those who had personally been active in former efforts to build such lines here. The committee appointed to represent Franklin in the matter consisted of Arnold Plumer, Samuel F. Dale, C. Heydrick and George H. Bissell. Mr. Kennard agreed to open the line provided the committee or their constituents acquired the right of way, securing the company by a bond against all claims that might arise on that account, and also that a turnpike road should be constructed from Franklin to the mouth of Oil creek.

The Atlantic & Great Western was sold Jan. 6, 1880, and was reorganized as the New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio. It was leased to the *New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad* in March, 1883, for ninety-nine years. Under this management this road is doing important business in the county.

*Western New York & Pennsylvania Lines.* This company was the resultant of a combination of several short lines, whose independent management and operation could scarcely have been profitable for the lines or convenient to the public. These were as follows:

1st: *The Oil Creek Railway*, chartered April 2, 1860, to build a line from Garland Station, on the Philadelphia & Erie road, to Titusville, Crawford county. It was completed in 1862. Miller Farm, Shaffer Farm, Boyd Farm and

Petroleum Center were the successive termini, the last named in 1866.

2d: *The Pithole & Oil City road*, built by the Clarion Land & Improvement Company, from Pithole City to Oil City, via mouth of Pithole creek; begun in 1865, the first train was run from Pithole City to Oil City March 10, 1866.

3d: *The Warren & Franklin Railway Company*, which completed a line from Irvington to Oil City in 1866; known at first as the Warren & Tidioute Railroad.

4th: *The Farmers' Railway Company of Venango county*, incorporated April 10, 1862. Joshua Rhoads, William Bagaley, Sam. Q. Brown, Jonathan Watson, Thomas Hoge, James S. Myers, S. P. McCalmont, John L. Mitchell, and P. H. Siverly were among the incorporators. A road was constructed to Petroleum Center in the summer of 1866, opened for travel on the 27th of August.

5th: These four roads were consolidated in 1867-68 under the name of the *Oil Creek & Allegheny Valley Railway Company*. In 1876 it was sold at judicial sale and reorganized under the name of the *Pittsburgh, Titusville & Buffalo road*, connecting with Crosscut road in New York. In 1881 the Buffalo, Pittsburgh & Western Railroad was constructed from Buffalo to Brocton, N. Y., also the Salamanca & Allegheny River Railroad, from Salamanca to Irvineton, and the Genesee Valley Canal Company's railroad, from Rochester to Olean. The Olean & Salamanca was built in 1882, when all these various lines were consolidated and were merged into the Buffalo, New York & Philadelphia Company. The entire system was again sold under foreclosure in 1887, and reorganized under the name of the *Western New York & Pennsylvania Company*. A line from Stoneboro, Mercer county, to New Castle, Lawrence county, is also operated. The tracks of the Lake Shore are used between Stoneboro and Oil City.

6th: *The Allegheny Valley Railroad* was chartered under its present name April 14, 1852. It was completed to Franklin and South Oil City in 1867, but the terminal facilities were not completed at Oil City till Feb. 2, 1870.

*The Pennsylvania Railroad.* On Jan. 1, 1900, the lines enumerated in the six foregoing numbered paragraphs passed under the management and undoubtedly into the ownership of the Pennsylvania Railway Company. These are all those lines consolidated and known as, 1st, The Western New York & Pennsylvania Company, and, 2d, The Allegheny Valley Railroad Company.

*The Jamestown & Franklin Railroad*, operated by the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, was chartered April 5, 1862, to William Gibson, John P. Vincent, George A. Bittenbender, W. I. Scott, Henry C. Hickok, A. W. Raymond and David Hadley, by whom the Jamestown & Franklin Railroad Company was organized at Sheakleyville with William Gibson, of Jamestown, president; A. W. Raymond, Franklin, secretary; T. H. Fulton and David Hadley, directors. Jamestown is a station on the Erie & Pittsburgh, and it was with the design of providing a western outlet from the oil regions, as well as developing the intervening country, that the road was projected. The extension to Franklin was opened in the summer of 1867; the bridge over French creek was completed in January, 1870, and the first train entered Oil City, May 24, 1870. In August, 1872, a road was constructed from Jamestown to Ashtabula connecting with the main line of the Lake Shore. The road is now a part of the New York Central lines.

During the last few years a remarkably fine and expensive roadbed has been constructed under New York Central auspices, known as

the Franklin & Clearfield railroad. It has a fine double trackbed, has many tunnels and bridges. It seems designed as a connecting link between the Lake Shore at Franklin, and other parts of the New York Central east. At present it is used as a freight line. A part of this track is also used by General Miller's road, as it is named here, and the part so used carries both passengers and freight. This road is known as the *Lake Erie, Franklin & Clarion Railroad*.

We have thus the following great systems of railways entering Venango county and ramifying to every nook and remotest corner of our vast territory:

1st, The New York, Lake Erie & Western.  
2d, The Pennsylvania.

3d, The New York Central, including the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern.

It is evident that Venango county is as well supplied with railroad facilities as any county in the country. It has close connections with all the lines in the United States. The business here is increasing to such an extent that notable improvements for handling it are in contemplation.

## CHAPTER VI

### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS

#### TOWN OF FRANKLIN—ROADS—WATERWAYS—ALLEGHENY RIVER AND FRENCH CREEK—CANALS— SCHOOLS—CONTEMPLATED HIGHWAYS

The creation of the town of Franklin, by act of the legislature April 18, 1795, was the first internal improvement made by the State in the territory afterward known as Venango county. The town thus antedates the county, of which it is the capital, by five years. In pursuance of this act, Andrew Ellicott and William Irwin were appointed commissioners to attend to the survey and to the division of the section into lots, streets, alleys and parks. In 1789, when the Commonwealth was locating the territory to be used as donation lands, Andrew Ellicott had recommended the survey and reservation to State uses of sections, not exceeding three thousand acres each, at the mouth of French creek, of the Conewango, and at Presque Isle. This had the effect of withdrawing these lands from settlement. Therefore the act of 1795 was

passed with the object of hastening the settlement of the lands hitherto held in reserve for State purposes. The commissioners acted promptly, and in the same year the plan of the town appeared upon the map. The governor was authorized to sell, or cause to be sold one-third of the lots, after duly advertising the time, place and terms of sale for at least eight weeks in one paper in every county of the State in which a newspaper was published. The lots were to be sold at public auction. The condition was that the occupants within two years should erect a house sixteen feet square, having a brick or stone chimney, upon each and every lot by them purchased. This condition was generously waived by the State, later; it was said that the settlers in the early purchases had assumed a liability of two dollars to eighteen dollars for each lot. The

terms, easy as they seem now, were difficult then; a man might start a home on a four-hundred acre tract by paying a dollar down; and secure a hundred acres in fee by making the necessary improvements within two years.

The duty of the governor in advertising, as required by the act, would be discharged by printing the announcement of the sale in a small number of papers. At that date there were less than two hundred newspapers in the entire country. Of the twelve published in Pennsylvania, the majority were in Philadelphia county; York had issued one since the beginning of the Revolution, and Berks probably possessed one; Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, where, ten years before, the country was a wilderness, were at this time just on record as each possessing a newspaper. It is probable, therefore, that the Commonwealth set forth the method of obtaining a lot in Franklin in six or seven different newspapers for eight successive weeks. The result of this act was a finely planned town essentially as it is to-day; except some additions of territory that have been effected. The place was now ready for settlers. The legislature fittingly acknowledged its value as a county center, while three different national governments had recognized it as a point of great strategic importance. The settlers were slow in coming. It was not till 1828 that Franklin attained the dignity of a separate incorporated borough. But having made all needed preparations the State could wait, so could the town, for the planting and growth of homesteads.

#### ROADS

Early in the history of the county the State assumed the responsibility of assisting in the building of roads. It has already been noted that in the land warrants granted to settlers or to land companies there was included enough, in addition to the acres granted, to provide the necessary roads. The State surveyed and laid out at its own expense certain highways, known as State roads, which extended across the county, connecting important points beyond the county limits on its opposite boundaries. As Franklin was at the center of the county, these roads were generally planned to pass through that place, then on by the most practicable route, to the terminus, a county seat or other desirable connecting point. This policy was of value to the county in a number of ways. It furnished different sections with roads to their county town or to further lines of travel; and at a time when they

could not have done it for themselves, very well. To their assistance came the skillful surveyors of the Commonwealth, wise to plan; and, from long experience and broad knowledge of the territory, expert in suggesting ways and means. They were the instructors of the people in road building; they were also the supervisors, directly, or indirectly, of the work done.

The State also expended considerable sums to assist in building these roads after they had been laid out and their construction had begun. In 1806, three hundred dollars was thus appropriated and used in the county for the improvement of the State highways. In 1807 the sum provided by the State was \$1,300; in 1811, \$500; in 1821, \$4,000; in 1828, \$2,000; in 1838, \$5,600. The total of appropriations from 1806 to 1838 inclusive is \$13,700, besides the expenses of surveying and of supervision provided by State officials.

#### WATERWAYS—ALLEGHENY RIVER AND FRENCH CREEK

In this connection may be included an appropriation of one thousand dollars to improve the navigation of the Allegheny river and French creek, March 24, 1817. Previous to this date an appropriation was made by the legislature to improve French creek. But of what amount, or how it was used, no record can be found. But the later one of 1817 has a specific amount, and was undoubtedly applied fully in memory of the men who so recently had waded up stream backwards to push toward Erie the supplies for the building of Perry's fleet. Upon the beautiful valley then, as it does now, rested a halo of patriotism, bright by day as the sun, or gleaming at night as the constellations sweeping overhead touched the ripples with flashing light. The valley is filled with memories potent to quicken the life of the present with confidence in the future. What the river men and settlers along its banks accomplished in the hot weeks of June and July will never be blotted out of the nation's history. Their efforts sailed out across the bar with Perry's fleet and made possible the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." The water in French creek was unusually abundant till August, 1813. Had it been otherwise, the flatboats would have sailed into Erie upon the morning dews. They would have arrived. No other valley, so short, has been so fortified, so fought for, so prized by four successive peoples as Washington's French creek; not in

our country, perhaps not in any other land. In this one instance, it was the artery from the heart of the people to the brain planning victory. The supplies for the ships were laboriously navigating the shallows, while the long train of covered powder wagons was convoyed over the mountains, along old trails, through the woods, across fords. Both reached the little town on Lake Erie in time to help create a great victory. Sentiment was back of it all, brought it into being; the strong soul of a nation intensively willing to be free. That a self-indulgent, vicious king and court of pampered peacocks over the seas should assume to own them, affected these men like a horrible burlesque of the Deity Whom they had found under the arched roofs of the forest columns. A king or puppet princeling, could not supplant conscience and even God himself in the religion of the men of the early nineteenth century. A century later finds the old feudal autocratic idea emerging again in full panoply, devastating the fair earth with its devilish devices. The trouble begins when one man owns another. It is multiplied by millions, when the one owns a nation. There were prophets in the French creek valley in those days. They looked into the future and saw coming events. Throughout the country, the eyes of men were opened to the same vision. Impossibilities, as the invaders viewed it, occurred everywhere. Consider one illustration from a neighboring State, at that same time. A hemp hawser a foot thick and four hundred and fifty feet long was needed at Sackett's Harbor, on Lake Ontario, to outfit a three-decker nearing completion there. Men, in relays of one hundred each, were needed to carry this rope of three tons' weight upon their shoulders through the woods for sixty miles. The enemy held the lake, there were no roads with possible means of conveyance; but the hawser came. Men who looked into the future with imperturbable spirits, like those of French creek and of northern New York, were in all the States then, along the frontiers. Such men are not conquered; they may be outnumbered and die; but their souls are undaunted. Had they been of the ancient Greek race or of the Iroquois, they would pass through the legends of those peoples with the attributes of gods. With us they are honored most by the qualities of their children's children a hundred years later. The glory of the deeds done in French creek valley in the summer of 1813, was apparent to the Commonwealth and to the whole country in the October day of Perry's victory. Such efforts are as

worthy to receive wide recognition as were the shots fired at Concord a generation before.

#### CANALS

The legislature, realizing the importance of a waterway between the Allegheny and Lake Erie, on March 30, 1823, passed an act appointing Commissioners to explore a route to connect the waters of French creek with Lake Erie. An act passed April 9, 1827, directed operations to be commenced upon a feeder to summit level. Subsequent acts of April 11 and April 14, 1827, forbade the use of this feeder, respectively to the Allegheny and Conewango Canal Company, and to the Pennsylvania & Ohio Canal Company. On March 21, 1831, \$60,000 was appropriated by legislative action to make a canal or slackwater navigation up French creek from its mouth to French creek feeder. Feb. 16, 1833, an appropriation was granted to complete this canal; and on April 5, 1834, another appropriation "to complete the canal" was made. These appropriations amounted to one and one-quarter million dollars. Afterwards about fifty thousand dollars was spent upon repairs. After this the appropriations ceased and the slackwater navigation of French creek entered a period of desuetude. It is recorded that only two boats passed up French creek from Franklin to Meadville in this canal. The first arrived on June 6, 1834, and the second, the "French Creek Pioneer," on Nov. 14, 1834. One only is usually credited; but there were two.

This work was begun when the policy of the State was to make internal improvements on its own account. Just then canals were thought to be the best institutions of the age. That thought was true then, and it is also true in this year 1918 A. D. In our country, which stretches across a continent, east and west, and two thousand miles north and south, where all our transportation systems are periodically blocked by the enormous amounts of freight requiring movement for long distances by our one hundred million inhabitants, canals are a growing necessity. This need has become acute since we have attempted to feed the war-blasted countries of the Old World. This will be more keenly felt under all conditions when our population has doubled, or trebled as it will during the next century. Canals were good then, they are necessary now, and will probably be built and used more and more in all large territories where the density of the population is constantly increasing. This oldest form of artificial waterway is getting ap-

preciation again. Even at this moment a ship canal is planning to connect Pittsburgh with Lake Erie, to cheapen the handling of ores from the West. Water freight is less costly than any other, and when the needed articles begin to arrive in this way they will continue to come fast enough. The return trips from the cities need not be made with empty boats, for they can carry back as ballast the merchandise needed by those distant points, which to reach was the first aim in providing the canal. Thus freight carriage will be cheapened in both directions, commerce will increase to the development of each end of the line.

The French Creek Canal Company was misled by the memories of the older settlers upon the banks. They doubtless saw the waters yet through the halo cast upon them by the men in 1813. They forgot that those men were urged by the goddess they loved as they dragged or carried up the shallows the boats which floated only in the reaches of the still pools. Marks upon the landings were scored, below which the settlers believed the water did not fall in the driest seasons. The corporators therefore believed that by the construction of wing dams and channel walls over or at the side of the shallows, a way would be made for the passage of boats. But the water fell below the marks a foot or more, the first season, and the canal gave promise of becoming only a series of shallow, stagnant pools. The hopes of the company must have fallen with the water, but like the resourceful general who, when one plan fails, immediately tries some other, they abandoned the wing dams and channel walls and adopted the plan of making artificial pools with sluiceways. They built crib-dams, filled with stones across the bed of the stream at convenient intervals, with an artificial channel at several points to the locks. The plan was to allow the dam to fill and overflow till the water below was at its natural stage, then to open the sluiceway for the boat to pass out upon the flood thus produced, into the dam below, where the process was repeated down to the Allegheny. Passage for boats was furnished by this method, for some years, downstream. Pleasant, even exhilarating, must the trip have been, with its occasional stops, the glide through the sluice as the water fell away from the bottom of the boat, and the rapid run over the rippling waves of the brief flood, into the quiet water of the next dam. When the stream was just high enough, the truth of a classic saying appeared, "to descend is easy, but to ascend is difficult"—so difficult that after the first two boats succeeded, from

Franklin to Meadville, it was thought to be impossible. No sooner was the construction of the crib-dams completed in 1834 than the disadvantages began to appear. In high water the dams were not needed by the boats passing down. They were an obstruction and even dangerous; for unless the sluiceways and locks were kept in working order and carefully attended, the boats might be carried over the dams, instead of through them in the way planned. It was also evident that the approach of boats upstream to the locks would become impossible during high water. Attempts demonstrated this. In the dry season, the water collected back of the cribs, only about as fast as evaporation and seepage disposed of it. So there were formed a series of stagnant pools in the bed of the stream. A last attempt to "repair the canal" was authorized by the legislature by act of April 14, 1838, but with no result apparent.

Shortly after the last date mentioned, the Beaver and Shenango route had been fixed upon as the means of water communication between Lake Erie and the Ohio river, and that enterprise seemed sufficient for the north-western part of the State. The feelings of the people were naturally painful as they beheld the decay of public works from which so much had been expected, and found expression in informal action at mass meetings at various times. A meeting of this nature was held in Franklin courthouse on the evening of Dec. 3, 1842; T. S. McDowell presided, with James S. Myers and Myron Park vice presidents, James Bleakley and Alexander Cochran, secretaries. The committee appointed to express the sense of the meeting consisted of John W. Howe, Richard Irwin, Samuel Hays, Samuel F. Dale and James Ross Snowden. Several of the resolutions, with the preamble, presented by James Ross Snowden for the committee, were as follows:

WHEREAS, Various appropriations have been made by the Commonwealth since the year 1826 to her public improvements, among which is the French Creek division of the Pennsylvania canal, which is composed of the Franklin line and the French Creek feeder; and whereas the said work for want of sufficient repairs has become in a great measure dilapidated; and not only the commercial advantages sought to be secured by the construction of the same have not been attained, but it is now causing an injury to the navigation of the stream by rendering it more difficult and tedious than the natural navigation. And whereas, should the Erie extension be completed and this line kept in repair the interests and property of the country bordering on the Allegheny and French creek and their tributaries would be subserved and encouraged and the general interests of the Commonwealth protected, and

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

it is believed that further appropriations from the State Treasury in its present state of embarrassment can not reasonably be expected. And whereas, the importance of this work imperatively demands its preservation and protection and it would be unjust, unwise and impolitic to suffer it further to decay, and thus instead of subserving the interests of the county by promoting its commerce and navigation, become an absolute loss by producing stagnant pools and obstructing the natural navigation; therefore,

*Resolved.*, That the restoration and repair of the French Creek division of the Pennsylvania canal is of the deepest importance to an extensive region of country, thereby affording an outlet to market to the citizens residing thereon for their various productions, as well as opening up an important channel to the commerce of the State. But we would especially refer to the market it would afford to the iron, which is now manufactured in large quantities by the counties of Armstrong, Clarion and Venango, and which may be enlarged to an almost unlimited extent.

*Resolved.*, That we view with alarm and surprise the startling fact that the water of French creek, a large and navigable stream to which God and nature have given us an indefeasible title, is about to be diverted from its natural channel and carried down the Shenango and Beaver creeks, through the partial policy of those who have been engaged in conducting the public works whilst the French creek division, although actually completed, has been suffered to go out of repair and become an absolute obstruction, rendering the navigation greatly inferior to what it was in its natural state; that if this policy and course are passively submitted to and further pursued, the water of this large stream during the season of the year when most required for navigation will be entirely diverted from its natural channel, and thus also its waterpower for mills and other works be entirely destroyed.

*Resolved.*, That should this project be consummated and the French Creek division be thus destroyed, it would be an act of the most gross injustice and a direct violation of all equitable and just principles, not only to the citizens generally who reside in this section of country, but especially to those who reside on the borders of the stream and who have paid for those rights which are now sought to be taken away.

It was further charged at this meeting, that the decayed state of the line was caused by the Canal Commissioners who failed to give French creek its share of the appropriation for repairs; and further, that the board had solemnly promised the representatives from this district in the session of 1840 that the line should be put in repair, in violation of which they had refused any amount whatever when the appropriation bill became a law. It was urged that the Shenango route had never been authorized except with the understanding that improved navigation should be simultaneously constructed to the mouth of French creek as a substitute for its natural navigation, and as an equivalent for the water to supply the Erie extension. Any other arrangement would be

an act of flagrant injustice, on the part of the Commonwealth, it was declared, depriving a large number of citizens of the benefits of natural navigation and bestowing upon others advantages which they had no right to enjoy. As the improvement of French creek was a matter of urgent necessity, and the condition of the public treasury would not warrant any help from that source, the most feasible means of procedure was thought to be the incorporation of a company for completing the work already done and for making the necessary repairs. James Ross Snowden, Samuel Hays, William Elliott, Thomas S. Espy, and John W. Howe were appointed a committee to memorialize the legislature at the approaching session, and prepare the address to that body. The Franklin Canal Company was incorporated by act of April 27, 1844. It was also authorized in 1849, April 9th, to elect officers on or before Aug. 1st next, and, irregularities cured, was authorized to build a railroad and to use the graded line or towing path as a road bed, and to extend lines to Erie and to Pittsburgh. This would have effected a most notable improvement in the navigation of French creek. Samuel S. Adrain was authorized, act of April 18, 1853, to improve the navigation of French creek, but not to interfere with the rights of the Franklin Canal Company. The charter of this canal company was annulled by act of Jan. 28, 1854. But the roadbed already surveyed was of use later in getting the Atlantic & Great Western to extend a branch to Franklin. Thus in seeking to knot one thread, other threads are sometimes tied, as Victor Hugo wisely remarks.

The resolutions passed at Franklin courthouse in December, 1842, did not result in any improvement in the French creek canal. An act of legislature passed Feb. 10, 1849, sought to promote free navigation by requiring owners of dams to construct chutes. This would seem to imply that some of the State dams had been sold, or that others had been built for manufacturing purposes. The Canal Commissioners were authorized April 9, 1849, to sell the State dam at Franklin with lots of land attached to dam and lock, purchaser to keep dam and lock in repair.

The stream was used for some years for descending navigation. The dams proved to be a hindrance rather than a help, and were destroyed, with the exception of the one at the mouth of the creek, which still continued to be used for power purposes. This dam was broken down by a flood two years ago. The stream has now returned to its original con-

dition, described in the resolutions of 1842, as "French creek, a large and navigable stream, to which God and nature have given us an indefeasible title." The only indications of this brave attempt of the State are the remains of the dams along the banks, consisting of mounds of earth and stones, from which the ends of timbers project, the finis of the cribs; and of channel walls, which were not required for the railroad bed, below the mounds. These channels are now usually dry, and from their beds are elm or swamp ash trees at least a foot in diameter that have grown up in less than the hundred years of opportunity. They are quite as large as the "great trees" which have appeared along Oil creek in and between the oil pits whose origin nobody knows, and it has therefore been imputed to the "ancient mound builders." Some of the channels hold shallow pools, with beautifully-ugly, shiny-green, bulge-eyed, burlesque embodiments of the spirit of the pool sitting just above the water, intensely at home. As the incautious fisherman passes, "it makes a noise like swallowing its own throat twice," as a boy said, and disappears with a splash. Or with a quiet approach, a red bass-fly may be dropped in front of the grotesque thing, which may be drawn across the pool after it has nailed the fly with its tongue and shut its broad mouth with a "plop" faintly heard through the ripples' murmur.

These are now the sole remains of the canal of large expenditures and larger hopes. Did the appropriations pay? Yes. They paid as an honor to the men who proved that French creek is navigable when its navigation saved the nation's life. They paid by teaching the State what is practicable and what is not, in building slackwater canals. They erected a cheap monument of instruction in the futility of appropriations for waterways in sections where nature has not made abundant appropriations of water. A ditch may be dug anywhere, but if it is to be used for navigation, water to fill it at all times is the chief desideratum. In the French creek experiment the only element lacking was water. The works held back the stream for the sun and hot winds and parched earth to take more than the usual toll. It seemed right to make the trial; it was made. It has undoubtedly saved the Commonwealth from making still greater miscalculations of the same nature, and will continue to do so in time to come. It did not rob the people of their patriotism or of their enthusiasm for progress, or, greatest of all,

for it includes all, it did not deprive them of ability to gain wisdom from the sting of disappointment.

One legacy from the crib dams used in French creek was the education of boatmen to the "pond freshet" used in the transportation of oil down the more rapid Oil creek in the sixties, where it resulted in the largest, most tumultuous traffic ever produced, on so small and short a water course, in the history of the world. It is quite probable that this education, which was the result of that former experience, added several times as many millions to the wealth of the State as the canal appropriations took from it.

#### SCHOOLS

While the county was very young the legislature came to its assistance in the higher education of its children. By act of Jan. 28, 1813, The Venango Academy was established at Franklin. William Moore, Alexander McDowell, John McDonald, William Connely, George Power and Alexander McCalmont were appointed trustees. At the same time \$2,000 was granted for the use of the institution, for the expenditure of which sum the trustees were required to give bonds. Four poor children of Venango county were to be taught gratis. The trustees were required to account annually. In 1823 outlots Nos. 27 and 30 were granted to the institution as an aid in securing teachers. In 1838 the trustees were authorized to sell 511 acres of land in Venango county and two outlots in the borough of Franklin, previously granted to the Academy, and apply the proceeds to the needs of the school. In 1841 the trustees were authorized to expend all funds arising from any source whatsoever for the erection of a new building. In 1852 a patent of lands in Sugarcreek township was granted to the trustees, and by the same act they were authorized to sell the real estate in their possession and to use the proceeds for no other purpose than the building of an academy in the borough of Franklin or for the purchase of a lot for the same.

The Venango Academy thus established in January, 1813, was one of the earliest institutions farthest west devoted to the higher education of young people. It antedated by at least a generation the founding of ninety-five one hundredths of similar schools throughout our land. Its life was one of steady growth and improvement. Who can estimate its influence, especially upon the young people of the county who aspired to more than the rudi-

mentary instruction of the common schools of that time? As the only school of the kind, in an extensive region, it must have been the means of attracting and awakening the young inquirers of that day, and endowing them with larger powers and wider outlook. Franklin became noted in the second generation of the Academy as "The Nursery of Great Men." The truth of this name may be traced to two sources. The first is the intelligence and foresight of many of its early settlers. The second is its Academy, which touched with light the minds and spirits of its students. Its

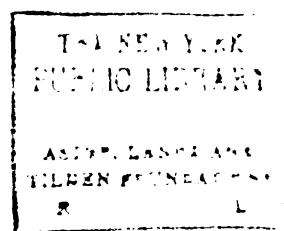
Echoes roll from soul to soul,  
And grow forever and forever.

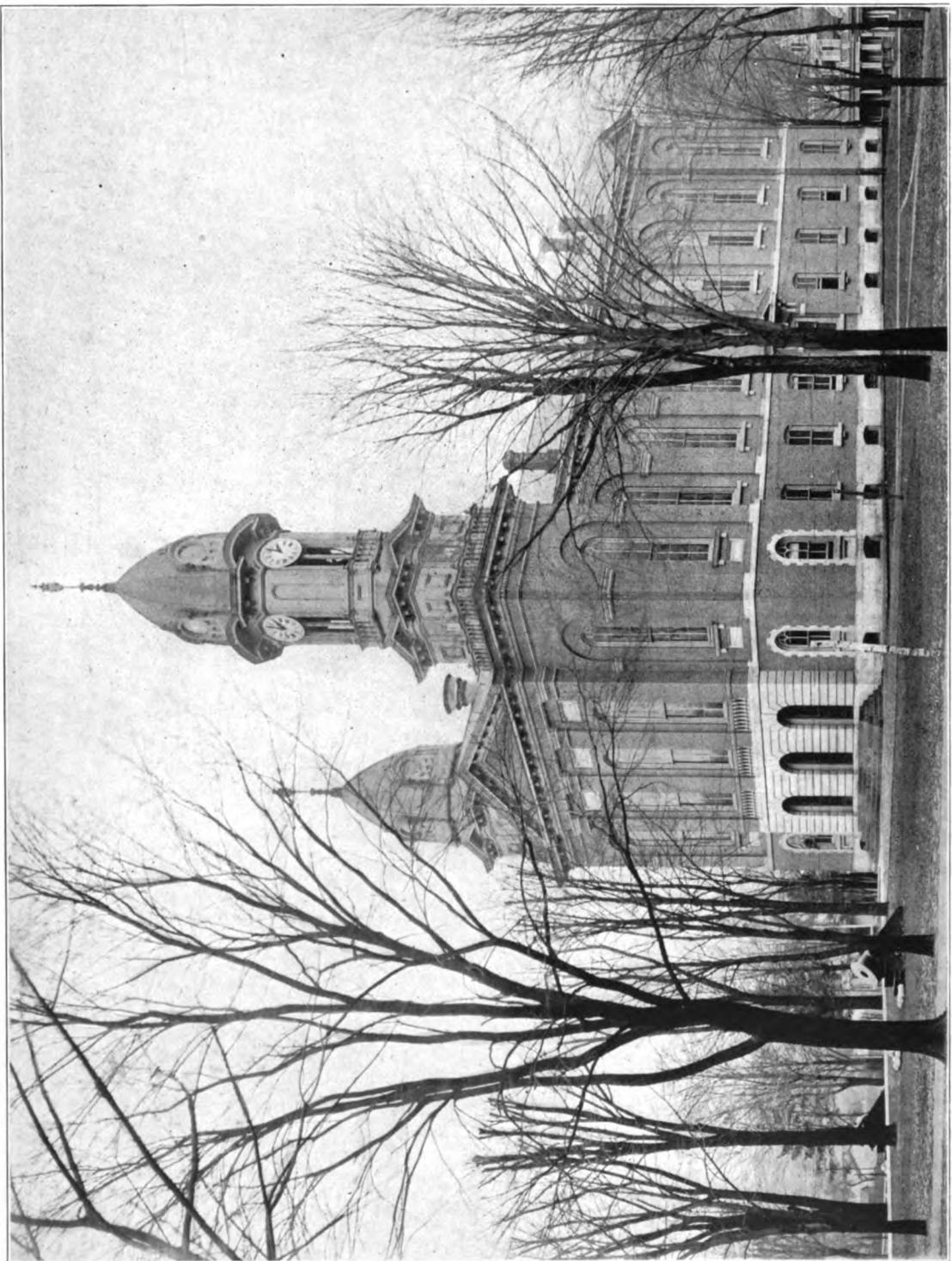
#### CONTEMPLATED HIGHWAYS

At the present time the county is much interested in a very important improvement, which the Highway Commissioner of the State also favors. This is the establishment of a connecting link from the Lincoln National Highway to Lake Erie. The National Highway extends from ocean to ocean. The connecting link passing through this county may become known as the highway from the lakes to the oceans. It will leave the Lincoln Highway somewhere near Tyrone, and follow the route of the Susquehanna and Waterford turnpike to Franklin. From Franklin to Oil City the way is by the old toll road along the river, thence up Oil creek again by way of State highway to Waterford. This route summarizes the history of the State from the time the Indians, generations before the coming of the white man, trod out the trails of easiest grades and shortest distances, to the present age, when as a macadam or paved street hundreds of cars or motor trucks will soon be roll-

ing over its smooth extent. Immediately after the Indians left it, it was used by the pioneers and early settlers as a footpath and horse and cattle track. Then the settlers wore off the stumps and roots with their rude wagons. The State made a highway of it, a turnpike, and improved it some. It was traversed by stages, the passengers walking up hills, and prying the vehicles at intervals out of the "suck holes." The mail went over it from Warren, Franklin, Erie, Mercer, Meadville, to the East at intervals varying from three weeks to as many days. Armies marched over it. It is redolent of the past. Much of it on the hillsides used to "go out" every spring like the ice in the creeks. The scenery is beautiful, worthy of the most variegated State east of the Rocky mountains.

The route now seems to be determined upon by all concerned along the way. The chief interest centers in the route through Venango county, which interest will be greatly heightened by the fact that the way through the county is part of a great splendid roadway connecting the oceans with the Great Lakes. It is proposed to abolish grade crossings between Oil City and Franklin, and to have what has never been before—a wide paved, level street between the two cities. The State will pay half the expense, the county half. The Eclipse refinery, on the way to Franklin, will contribute eight thousand dollars toward the county's share. This result has been reached through the efforts of all associations favoring good roads, the Chambers of Commerce of the two cities, the road supervisors of the townships, and all roadsters generally. Surveys have been already made, and it is expected that the way will be paved from the county seat to Reno soon, a consummation devoutly to be wished.





Court House, Franklin, Venango County, Pennsylvania  
*Erected 1868*

## CHAPTER VII

### ORGANIZATION OF COUNTY

#### **ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES OF COUNTY—ORIGIN OF COUNTY NAME—CHANGES IN BOUNDARY—AREA OF COUNTY—EARLY GOVERNMENT—FIRST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—EARLY ASSESSORS AND ASSESSMENTS—TOWNSHIP DIVISIONS—BOROUGHS—PUBLIC BUILDINGS—COUNTY FARM**

The State quieted the Indian title of a large tract lying to the north and west of the line of former purchases by a treaty with the "Six Nations" at Fort Stanwix in 1784, which was ratified by the Ohio tribes at Fort McIntosh in January, 1785. Prompt steps were taken for the civil administration of this vast territory. On the 8th of April, 1785, that part of the purchase lying east of the Allegheny river and Conewango creek was joined to Northumberland; the part west of those streams was assigned to Westmoreland county. This part was taken from Westmoreland and joined to Allegheny when that county was organized, in 1788; while the western limits of Lycoming county, established in 1795, included the corresponding portion east of the Allegheny and the Conewango. Thus the county boundaries moved westward like the star of empire. A new county was formed by an eastern boundary, from which it extended indefinitely westward. The northern or southern limits were those of the State itself, or of the other county which stretched across the State toward the sunset. The east and west sides of the Allegheny and Conewango, from the point where the Ohio breaks the State line in the southwest, to the entrance of the Conewango on the north, had each a separate absentee judicial control, the one from Pittsburgh, the other from Williamsport. This arrangement continued till March 12, 1800, when the legislature passed an act forming in this section eight counties at once, Beaver, Butler, Mercer, Crawford, Erie, Warren, Venango and Armstrong. The section relating to Venango is as follows:

#### **ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES OF COUNTY**

"SEC. VII. . . . That so much of the counties of Allegheny and Lycoming as shall be included in the following boundaries, viz.,

Beginning at the northeast corner Mercer county; thence on the first line or course of Crawford county until it shall intersect the north line of the sixth donation district being the same as the first line of the said county of Crawford; thence eastwardly upon the said line of the sixth donation district along the boundary of the counties of Crawford and Warren and crossing the river Allegheny to line dividing Wood's and Hamilton's districts, in the county of Lycoming; thence southerly along the said line to Toby's creek; thence down the said creek to the river Allegheny; thence across the said river, and upon the line of Armstrong county, hereinafter described, to the northeast corner of the county of Butler; thence westwardly by the north line of said county to the corner of Mercer county; thence northerly along the line of Mercer county to the place of beginning, be, and the same is hereby erected into, a separate county, to be henceforth called Venango county; and the place of holding the courts of justice in and for the said county shall be at the town of Franklin, in the said county. And the governor shall, and he is hereby empowered to appoint three commissioners, any two of which shall run and ascertain and plainly mark the boundary lines of the said county of Venango, and shall receive as full compensation for their services therein, the sum of \$2 for every mile so run and marked, to be paid out of the moneys that shall be raised for the county uses, within the county of Venango."

The "line dividing Wood's and Hamilton's districts" is the same as that between the counties of Jefferson and Clarion. Toby's creek is now known as the Clarion river. Warren and Crawford, Crawford and Mercer, Butler and Armstrong, were the adjoining counties on the north, west and south, respectively, as they are now; the line dividing Jefferson and Clarion, extended north to the War-

ren line, formed the eastern boundary. East of this line the territory remained a part of Lycoming till 1804, when Jefferson was erected, and in 1848 Forest was formed from the northern part of Jefferson. Comparing the boundaries described in this act with the present ones on the south and east, it plainly appears that Venango has been deprived of at least one-half of its original area.

#### ORIGIN OF COUNTY NAME

The county received the name of the "old Indian town" which for centuries undoubtedly, as shown by its refuse beds containing bones, mussel shells, flint chips, arrowpoints, pipe-bowls, and broken pottery, was situated at the mouth of French creek. The name was spelled in a variety of ways by different writers—Wenango, Weningo, then Vinango. Washington designated it Venango, in his journal, and the name he used has persisted. The name is borne by a town in Crawford county, a township in Erie county, and was given to one of the towns that are now parts of Oil City.

#### CHANGES IN BOUNDARY

"The first line or course of Crawford county" extended north forty-five degrees east from the northeast corner of Mercer county to the north line of the sixth donation district. This was a source of trouble to the inhabitants of both counties. In 1827 a petition was presented to the legislature representing that they experienced "great inconvenience in their assessments in consequence of the division line of said counties running diagonally from southwest to northeast through the sixth donation district, thence running east dividing a range of warranted lands, thereby dividing the donation and warrant lands so that the number of acres in said subdivisions cannot be correctly ascertained without considerable expense." The petition resulted in an act, Feb. 28, 1828, ordering a resurvey, showing the outlines of the individual allotments. No further change has been necessary since.

The line of Jefferson county was revised about the same time. A survey made in May, 1827, is among the archives of the county in the commissioners' office. Richard Irwin in September, 1830, under authority of both counties interested, prepared a draft of the disputed boundary. It received legislative approval in February, 1832.

The act of legislature of March 11, 1839, was the first materially changing the boundaries

of this county. This was the erection of Clarion county as follows:

"Beginning at the junction of Red Bank creek with the Allegheny river, thence up said creek to the line dividing Jefferson and Armstrong counties, thence along said line to the line dividing Toby and Saratoga townships in Venango county, thence along said line to the corner of Farmington township in Venango county, thence a straight line to the mouth of Shull's run on the Allegheny river, thence down said river to the place of beginning."

The part of this act directing a straight line from the corner of Farmington township to the mouth of Shull's run was repealed at the next session of the legislature. The Commissioners of Clarion county were directed to have a line surveyed with the mouth of Ritchey's run as the terminus at the Allegheny river, and this line is now the southeastern boundary of the county.

Venango was considerably reduced in area by this act, but was still the largest county in the northwestern part of the State with one exception. It still had an extreme length of forty miles from east to west. It is a matter of surprise that the eastern part of this territory was not joined to the county of Forest upon its erection in 1848. That it was not is probably because it was sparsely settled. As population increased the advantages of being nearer the county seat were apparent, and by an act approved Oct. 31, 1866, the legislature added to Forest the territory east and north of the line described as follows:

"Beginning on the Venango and Warren county line, at the southeast corner of the Southwest township, in the county of Warren; thence by a line southward to a point in Pine-grove township in Venango county, opposite to the middle northwest corner of Washington township, Clarion county; thence in a straight line east to said corner; thence east along the Clarion county line to a point where the said line diverges in a northerly course; thence north along said line to the upper northwest corner of the said county of Clarion; thence east along said line to the Forest county line."

This survey was made under the direction of C. Fulberson, of Venango county, James A. Leach, of Mercer county, and Jacob Zeigler, of Butler county. Four entire townships, Harmony, Hickory, Kingsley, and Tionesta, and parts of three others, Allegheny, President and Pinegrove, were attached to Forest. The boundaries of Venango have since been undisturbed.

## AREA OF COUNTY

The area at present is six hundred and sixty-one square miles, or four hundred twenty-three thousand and forty acres.

## EARLY GOVERNMENT

The act of March 12, 1800, creating the northwestern counties, contained administrative and executive features which seem incompatible from the language employed. The counties were duly "erected" and placed provisionally under the judicial control of other older county organizations. Armstrong was attached to Westmoreland; Butler and Beaver were placed under the jurisdiction of Allegheny; but the five counties of Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Warren and Erie, born and named at the same time, were merged into one, called Crawford. Venango was one of four step-counties, or counties *covert*, all placed under the tutelage of the more vigorous sister, till they should grow a little. In the meantime three trustees were appointed to manage the public affairs of Venango. These were George Fowler, Alexander McDowell and James McClaran, with "full authority for them or a majority of them to purchase or take or receive by grant, bargain, or otherwise, and such assurances for the payment of money and grants of land or other property that may be offered to them or the survivors or survivor of them in trust for the use and benefits of said county; and to sell or convey such part thereof, either in town lots or otherwise, as to them or to a majority of them shall appear advantageous and proper; and to invest one moiety of the net proceeds thereof in some productive property, to be a fund for the support of an academy or public school at the county town in the said county, and to apply the other moiety thereof in aid of the county rates and levies for the purpose of erecting the public buildings." This grant of authority was extensive enough for a large business; but the only record of their work that was preserved is a lease of part of the public square of Franklin to Edward Hale for one dollar a year.

The legislature by act passed April 1, 1805, conferred upon Venango county "all and singular the jurisdictions, powers and privileges" enjoyed by the people of other counties from and after the first day of September following. The county was made a part of the Sixth Judicial district; the second Tuesday in October was the date of the first election, in

which the voters of Warren should also participate, the latter county having been provisionally annexed. Ninian Irwin, Caleb Crane and James G. Heron were elected commissioners; John Witherup, sheriff; William Moore, prothonotary, and Marcus Hulings, coroner. The men chosen to serve the new county received the oath of office July 15, 1805, administered by John Irwin and William Moore, to whom a *dedimus potestatem* had been issued.

Thus, simply, was a new civil organization erected in the heart of a wilderness; but it was really planted in the heart of a new ideal. The wilds about it did not matter, the spirit sufficed. The officials chosen were not subservient to blind authority; they were elected by equals to be responsible for the continuance of equality. They were greater than the lords and knight of any king, for they were the embodiment of the civil whole, in intention, intelligence, power.

## FIRST COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The minutes of the county commissioners, of the first meeting and two adjourned meetings held at the house of Edward Hale, Oct. 23, 1805, are as follows:

This day the commissioners of Venango county met and formed a board,—Irwin, Crane and Heron. Appointed James Martin clerk, at one dollar thirty cents; Alexander McDowell, treasurer. Irwin going home. Wrote three advertisements for wood for county use. James G. Heron and Caleb Crane appointed to settle account with Crawford county. Adjourned until Monday, the fourth day of November [ensuing the date above].

Met according to adjournment on Monday, the fourth day of November, and determined that the county commissioners' and prothonotary's office shall be held at the house of Samuel Hays. Made an agreement to supply the courthouse and gaol. Adjourned till to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Nov. 5th.—Met according to adjournment. Received of James Hamilton his certificate of the oath of office as assessor of Sugar Creek township, also the bond of the treasurer with his sureties for the true performance of his duties as treasurer. Adjourned until to-morrow at nine.

An order was drawn on the treasurer in favor of Andrew Allison for eight dollars. It was the first order drawn, dated Nov. 2, 1805, Venango county, and was to pay the bounty prescribed for killing a wolf. This first expenditure is significant.

On the same day Caleb Crane, as collector of Irwin township, paid sixty dollars and five cents into the treasury, this being the first taxes received by the county.

The second order issued was in favor of George Fowler, for services rendered at the general election; the amount was one dollar and fifty cents.

#### EARLY ASSESSORS AND ASSESSMENTS

The first assessors of the county after its formation were: Caleb Crane, Irwin township; James Hamilton, Sugar Creek; David Kinnear, Allegheny, and Hugh E. Marsh, Brokenstraw. Their first precepts were issued Tuesday, Dec. 3, 1805. The duplicates for 1805 upon which this first county tax was collected, were copied from the records at Meadville by Samuel Dale, for which he was paid eight dollars by the commissioners. It was customary, at this period, for the board and assessors to meet together and arrange a uniform system of taxation. The earliest records of these proceedings now extant are those of the fourth triennial assessment of 1817, the fourth in the county. From these records, the following assessed valuations are taken: Improved lands, from twelve and one-half cents to six dollars; of unseated inlots, town of Franklin, from five to one hundred and fifty dollars; of houses and lots, from one hundred and twenty to five hundred dollars; of improved out-lots, from fifty to two thousand dollars; of saw-mills, from one hundred to three thousand dollars; of fulling mills, from one hundred to twenty-five hundred dollars; of carding machines, from three hundred to eight hundred dollars; of gristmills, from one hundred to fifteen hundred dollars; of distilleries, from fifty to two hundred dollars; of tanyards, from fifty to one thousand dollars; of horses, from five to one hundred dollars; of oxen, from twenty-five to one hundred dollars. Of the various occupations, the assessments were: Associate judge, seventy-six dollars; prothonotary and treasurer, three hundred dollars; commissioners, and clerk, two hundred dollars; sheriff, seventy-five dollars; attorneys, two hundred dollars; tavernkeepers and merchants were assessed in two classes, ranging, respectively, from fifty to one thousand dollars, and from one hundred to fifteen hundred dollars. Upon this basis the duplicate of Allegheny township, amounting to one hundred sixty-four dollars and thirty-three cents; of Cherrytree, one hundred thirty-three dollars twenty-one cents; of French Creek, three hundred thirty dollars twenty-three cents; of Irwin, one hundred eleven dollars seventy cents; of Richland, two hundred twenty-seven

dollars twenty-five cents; of Scrubgrass, one hundred eighty-four dollars fifty-six cents; of Sugar Creek, two hundred forty-nine dollars one cent.

Two very important deductions may be easily made from this first tax duplicate: First, that there had been a remarkable industrial development in this isolated community during the four years of its independent life, and secondly, that its government was administered with careful economy. There were now sawmills, fulling mills, gristmills, carding machines, distilleries, tanyards, where a few years before there was dearth of all these. There were hotelkeepers assessed at one thousand and merchants at fifteen hundred dollars, which is proof of trade and travel in the county. Land values had increased noticeably. Improved land assessed at six dollars an acre down to twelve and a half cents, with improved outlots at from ten to four hundred dollars an acre, while still there was territory to be had from the State and land companies, on easy terms, proves that the newcomers were becoming critical, and were moving toward certain sections or centers of settlement. Values were increasing in the county, industries were diversified, the people were alert and forward-looking. The territory of Venango at that time was nearly double its present area and was divided into seven townships. To provide for the salaries of officials and the sums required for necessary improvements and expenses of the county, the commissioners in 1817, made a levy, requiring from the four thousand two hundred and fifty inhabitants an annual contribution of fourteen hundred dollars and twenty-six cents. The act of April 1, 1805, conferring political independence upon Venango county, authorized the commissioners "to call on the commissioners of Crawford county for the purpose of examining, liquidating and reserving such balances as may be due to Venango county." In the minutes of the board of March 30, 1806, it is stated that "James G. Heron and Samuel Hays set off to Meadville in order to bring about a settlement with Crawford county, but through backwardness of the commissioners of Crawford county could only transcribe from their books the accounts of Venango and Warren counties from the year 1800 to the end of the year 1805. No paper to be purchased in Meadville, or would have taken off the amounts of Crawford, Mercer and Erie. Returned on Saturday, April 5."

The settlement of the account was difficult. The Venango commissioners took legal steps

to secure the amount of their claim; but the case lingered for many years and was a source of expense to the county.

Similar difficulties were experienced by Venango in settling the affairs of Warren in 1819, when that county secured a separate organization. But in this case Venango was the defendant. The account was not settled by the counties concerned until the legislature intervened. By act of assembly, April 11, 1827, the court of Quarter Sessions was directed to appoint three commissioners from either Crawford, Butler, Mercer or Armstrong, who should have full power to investigate all matters and whose decision should be final. Venango was required to pay two thousand two hundred seventy-four dollars and forty-five cents in three equal annual installments. The last was paid March 10, 1830—eleven years after separation. Those little cared-for counties seem to have become able to care for themselves, quite young.

#### TOWNSHIP DIVISIONS

The county was subdivided into three townships during the period it was attached to Crawford—Allegheny, Sugar Creek and Irwin, described as follows:

"Beginning at the mouth of Oil creek, thence up the Allegheny river, by the different windings thereof, to where the line dividing the counties of Venango and Warren strikes said river, thence west along the line dividing the counties of Venango and Warren to where the Holland Company's mill stands on Oil creek, thence down said creek to the place of beginning; to be called Allegheny township.

"Also one other township: Beginning at the mouth of French creek, thence up the Allegheny river by the windings thereof to the mouth of Oil creek, thence up said creek by the branch thereof that leads to the Holland Company's mill to where the line dividing the counties of Crawford and Venango to where the same crosses French creek, thence down said creek by the different windings thereof to the mouth, the place of beginning; to be called Sugar Creek.

"Also one other township: Beginning at the mouth of French creek, thence down the Allegheny river by the different windings thereof, to where the northeast corner of the county of Butler comes on said river, thence west along the line dividing the counties of Venango and Butler to the southwest corner of Venango county, thence north along the line dividing the counties of Venango and Mercer

to where the same strikes French creek, thence down French creek by the different windings thereof to the mouth, the place of beginning; to be called Irwin."

No provision was made for the extensive territory south and east of the Allegheny river in which the Crawford county commissioners could find no taxable inhabitants, in 1803; probably there were none.

The townships were formed by authority of the Courts of Quarter Sessions, in the organized counties. The policy pursued in making these subdivisions was similar to that of the legislature in dividing the northwest into counties. In both cases the respective political divisions were created in advance of any immediate necessity; and until such time as the growth of population should make individual organization necessary, they were united in groups under one administration. There was one great advantage to be gained by the early formation of townships; at that period the county commissioners appointed assessors and collectors of taxes, and divided the county into districts for the appointment of justices of the peace. On March 7, 1806, the board drew up a petition "setting forth that great inconveniences are at present experienced by the inhabitants of Venango and Warren counties from the too great extent of the townships, not only in attending their respective township meetings, but also in assessing and collecting taxes"; and as it was desirable that the district and township lines coincide, the latter ought to be permanently established. Samuel Dale, John Andrews and Thomas Baird were appointed by the court to inquire into the propriety of granting this petition. The committee presented a careful report, providing for the erection of twenty-six townships, fifteen of which were in the present limits of Venango county.

By the time that the triennial assessment was made in 1817, there were nominally twenty-four townships in the county, but only seven had been organized. Irwin, Scrubgrass and Richland occupied the same relative places as at present, but the latter extended to the Clarion river, including nearly all of the part added to Clarion county which was taken from Venango in 1839. French Creek extended across the county, bounded on the north by the creek and the Allegheny river, and varied in width from seven to fifteen or eighteen miles. Sugar Creek included Canal in addition to its present area, and also that part of Cornplanter west of Oil creek, with the southern part of Oakland and Jackson.

Cherrytree embraced the remaining territory west of Oil creek. Allegheny was situated east of Oil creek and north of the Allegheny river, and included nearly the whole of that part of Venango which was annexed to Forest in 1866.

It was more than ten years before further change was made in the map of the county. Plum was separately organized in 1817, and Rockland in the following year. Pine Grove was taken from French Creek in August, 1824. Cranberry in 1830, with Six Mile run as its southern boundary, instead of the line between the Astley and Brigham lands. Sandy Creek was separated from French Creek by the Mercer road, which was substituted for Big Sandy creek as the dividing line, Nov. 29, 1834. Tionesta was formed from the eastern part of Allegheny in 1827, and the latter was further reduced in area by the erection of Cornplanter Nov. 28, 1833. Plum, Cornplanter and Sugar Creek gave up the territory forming Oakland in 1841. Jackson, formed in 1845, is still possessed of the same boundaries. President was formed by act of legislature April 3, 1850, and Oil Creek was elided from the western part of Allegheny in 1866. Scrubgrass and Irwin were separated in April, 1855, by the new township of Clinton, taking a slice from each. The organization of Mineral, Oct. 24, 1870, and of Victory, Sept. 6, 1876, completes the map of Venango county as it is to-day.

#### BOROUGHS

The boroughs of the county have been formed at dates as follows: Franklin, April 14, 1828; Pleasantville, March 22, 1850; Cooperstown, Nov. 25, 1858; Emlenton, Jan. 27, 1859; Oil City, April 29, 1862; Utica, November, 1863; Pithole City, Nov. 30, 1865; Venango City, Dec. 1, 1865; Rouseville, Sept. 7, 1868; Siverly, August 27, 1874; Clintonville, Jan. 28, 1878; Sunville, Jan. 27, 1879; Polk, Aug. 23, 1886. Franklin was incorporated as a city April 4, 1868, and Oil City April 11, 1871. Siverly borough was joined to Oil City as the Tenth ward in 1912, and West End was united to the Fourth ward of Oil City in 1914. The charter of Pithole City was annulled in August, 1877.

#### PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The first official business after the county was organized was transacted at the house of Edward Hale, which stood on the site of the Snook block. Permanent offices for the com-

missioners and prothonotary were obtained at a quarterly rental of fifteen dollars in a log building on the lot just above the "United States Hotel" on Liberty street. The courts were held here for a time. This building was owned by Samuel Hays and John McDonald. It was removed in 1863. A duty especially enjoined upon the commissioners, by the act organizing the county, was the erection of county buildings, the public square being designated as their location. At a meeting of the board Dec. 4, 1806, various plans for building a courthouse were taken into consideration, and an estimate of expense was made. On Dec. 19th, the contract for digging the cellar and constructing the walls was awarded to John Witherup, the first sheriff of the county and the incumbent at that time. His bid was considered the most advantageous to the county of those received. A plan for the building was matured Jan. 9, 1807, and a site was staked off July 9th, following. On the 11th of November, however, the board really "Agreed upon the permanent seat of the courthouse, which it is agreed by the commissioners is to stand on the corner of the diamond where Liberty street and High street cross and on the west side of High street; to front toward Liberty street." This board of commissioners, who were to build the first great public building in the county seat, were subject to many suggestions, as to its location and construction, its appearance from different points of the compass. Under date of Aug. 1st the following minute appears: "This day George Fowler appointed on behalf of the commissioners, and John Phillip Houser, appointed on behalf of the contractors for building the courthouse, to ascertain the quality of the brick burned for the same, made report that the same were unfit for the public buildings." This would indicate that the original intention was to erect a brick building.

The records do not afford many details regarding the progress of this building. Payments were made in annual installments. John Broadfoot was employed as carpenter, and Christian and John Sutley were contractors for certain parts of the work. The amount received by Witherup and the Sutleys in 1809 was five hundred dollars. Considerable financial aid was received from the legislature. Other county seats in nearby parts of the State were located on lands owned by individuals, from whom subsidies, amounting in some cases to several thousand dollars, were usually received for the purpose of erecting the public buildings. The county capitol had been lo-

cated upon the property of the State, and this would greatly enhance the value of the large remainder still owned by the Commonwealth; it was only reasonable that the county should get the same advantage as if it had been fixed on the lands of a citizen. The legislature, in accordance with this view, appropriated one thousand five hundred dollars, March 28, 1806, "to be paid out of the moneys arising from the sales of town and outlots belonging to the Commonwealth in and adjoining the town of Franklin."

The building was two stories in height. It was a square stone building, substantial in appearance rather than imposing, but was a credit to the enterprise of the county at that early period. A cupola and bell were afterward added, effecting an improvement in appearance and utility. It was situated in West Park aligned with Liberty street near High, and was the dominant feature of the place, as one approached the business center up Liberty street. It is the conspicuous building seen in a picture of "Franklin in 1840." The first floor was entered from Liberty street and was used as the courtroom; the usual inclosed space opposite the entrance was reserved for the court attorneys and jurors. The second floor contained four rooms, occupied as offices by the prothonotary and commissioners, and as jury rooms. The building was extensively repaired in 1831. The chimneys were rebuilt, the walls were plastered, and the stairway and entrance were separated from the courtroom by a partition, ground around the building was improved and inclosed by a fence, adding to the appearance of the place.

The materials used in the building were the loose stones found in the surrounding hills, and were not capable of resisting the ravages of time. In 1845, the crumbling walls became unsafe and appeared ready to collapse, so that it was decided to brace them with props. This made the building of a new courthouse an immediate need.

On the 29th of May the commissioners—Nathan Cary, Patrick Culbertson, and David Adams—determined "to adopt immediate measures" to erect a courthouse in the ensuing year. They went to Meadville to inspect the courthouse there. They employed a Mr. Tucker to furnish specifications of the building, which, as prepared by him, were adopted. This was on June 23d. On the following day the board decided "that the new courthouse shall be located on the public square or diamond, and that the site shall be southwest of

the jail, so as to front against the east side of Liberty street as it comes into the diamond from the west." Proposals were received for erecting the building from fourteen different firms, and were considered on July 27th. William Bell and I. B. Rowe were engaged, at their bid of seven thousand and fifty dollars. A formal contract was entered into, in which Messrs. Bell and Rowe agreed to complete the building by Nov. 1, 1847. A depression of the surface in the site selected caused the foundation to be laid deeper, and two and one-half feet had to be added to the height of the wall above the ground. Some other changes had to be made, before the work was completed, without increasing, strange to say, the cost of the structure. This was a brick building, oblong in shape, fronting on Liberty street, in front of and near the site of the present courthouse. The offices of the prothonotary and board were conveniently located on the first floor, with a short hall between them, leading to the courtroom. The second floor was divided into several office rooms, needed by the county's business. On Sept. 11th and 12th, 1847, the records of the county were removed to the new building. The roof was surmounted by a cupola containing a bell—an ornamental as well as a cheerful and useful climax of the capitol's skyline. This bell may have been the one used in the first courthouse, added to the old building some years after its erection. Some citizen may have had associations with its tones, sounding at times the beginnings of mirth or of alarm, or marking the noon of the common day. It may have announced the sittings of the court; or have called the citizens to a meeting at the time appointed. These voices of the bell had civic power. They went through every street and alley, giving a common message to all, like unseen threads passing among the citizens and drawing them into fellowship. Without such means of sounding out signals a pioneer settlement lacks the power of combining for quick insight and outlook. Ringing into the ears of the whole town at once, the notice is more trustworthy than is passing hearsay changing as it passes.

There is something noteworthy in the record of the building of this second courthouse:

May 29, 1846. Board decides to erect a courthouse "by the coming year 1847."

June 5 and 6, 1846. Board visits Meadville to inspect courthouse; employs Mr. Tucker to draw plans.

June 23, 1846. Plan is adopted.

June 24, 1846. Location is fixed.

July 27, 1846. Fourteen proposals examined. One is accepted.

July 29, 1846. Formal contract entered into. Building to be completed by Nov. 1, 1847.

Aug. 28, 1846. Building operations begin.

Sept. 11th and 12th, 1847. The courthouse is completed, and the records are moved in, fifty-two days ahead of time.

The movements of the men controlling this building operation inspire anew faith in men. An efficiency program was carried out to the minute. This building fulfilled the purpose for which it was erected, for twenty-two years.

The third courthouse, which is also the present one, is more spacious, and has greater architectural values than either of its predecessors. The large increase of business, the greater density of population, the size of the values to be adjudicated and recorded at the county court, because of the discovery and development of petroleum, demanded a larger and safer building. According to one high authority, values in Venango county by reason of the oil business had increased probably a thousandfold in the sixties. The rush of new business to the Venango courthouse was so great as to overwhelm the facilities for taking care of it. The building was not fireproof; and an investigation revealed the fact that it could not be changed in this respect without practically rebuilding it. It was decided that the part of wisdom was to incur a large necessary expense at present rather than risk an immense loss in the future, along with the unspeakable trouble and confusion that would come upon the county if the records should be destroyed. On the 18th of July, 1867, the commissioners decided, in compliance with the recommendation of the grand jury, to build a new courthouse. Sloan & Hutton were employed as architects, I. W. Brady acted as superintendent, Aug. 14, 1867. The corner stone was laid by the Venango Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, July 15, 1868. The orators of the occasion were John S. Myers and John S. McCalmont. The building was completed, at a cost slightly exceeding forty thousand dollars, in the summer of 1869. This building was repaired, its conveniences extended, and its whole interior improved by artistic decorations in 1913. The courtroom is one of the finest public auditoriums in this part of the State. It has a seating capacity of nearly eight hundred. The building is worthy of its situation, in a park ten acres in extent, traversed by walks, adorned by fountains, stately trees and a monument worthy to bear aloft the names of the patriotic dead. Franklin,

the county town, is an important city in its grasp and extensive reach of business enterprises. Notwithstanding its intensive activity, as one drives along its broad, smooth streets, noting the shade trees, the lawns, the trim gardens, the flowers, the feeling prevails that the town is itself a park. So indeed it is; and is the center of a still larger park of strong scenic values, known as Venango county, with a history vivid in the light of patriotism, tempered by the gloom of the Valley of the Shadow. It is believed that the present courthouse will suffice, or at least by additions it may be made ample to satisfy the county requirements for many years.

Jails follow closely in the path of courthouses. These gloomy structures are not so numerous or so large now as in former ages, when civilized countries were governed by kings, queens and jack-o-lanterns, and when many might be seized and incarcerated for any slight peculiarity displeasing to the ruling power. Still it is probable that in any community of fifty to sixty thousand inhabitants, there are fifty or sixty which need examination, and sometimes seclusion, for the public good. About one in a thousand of the inhabitants usually cause all the trouble and expense of the criminal courts and jails. The "Old Garrison" was used even before the county court was in existence, for commitments found necessary by the local justices. When it passed under the control of the county commissioners, they employed John Broadfoot, Samuel Atkinson and Jacob Whitman to make the building secure for the retention of those confined therein. It was found not to be well adapted to this purpose. On March 19, 1818, the commissioners—John Wilson, Abraham Selders and William Kinnear—"fixed the site for a public prison." Eight bids were submitted for its erection, viz., George McClelland, John Luper, Charles Ridgeway, Abraham Clark, Thomas Hulings, Samuel Hays, McCalmont & McClelland, and Mathias Stockbarger. The contract was given to Mr. Stockbarger, at his bid of two thousand nine hundred and ninety-five dollars. Contracts were made with Joel Sage for lumber and with Thomas Hulings for stone. John Luper agreed to furnish five tons of bar iron. The work was pushed with energy, so that the walls were practically completed in May, 1820. Stockbarger bought the lumber remaining unused. Andrew Dewoody was employed in March, 1822, "to collect the loose stones lying about the walls" and to fill up the sand holes in the diamond with them. Some of the build-

ing material must have been within easy reach. Dr. Eaton makes this pen-picture of the first prison built by the county:

"The jail was something of a curiosity. It was designed to be both a prison and house for the sheriff, although rather diminutive to serve both purposes. It was two stories high, although the upper story was quite low. The windows of the portion assigned to prisoners were strongly barred. The architect seems to have had some misgivings of the strength of the wall, for those of the prison rooms were lined with heavy oak plank six inches thick, and so secured that they could not well be wrenched from their position; they were fastened to great beams with long spikes and were supported to form a strong barrier against liberty on the part of the prisoners. So far as known no attempt was ever made to storm this strong fortress but one. On this occasion, a plan was matured to break through the wall. The idea formed was to burn a way through these planks by heating the poker in the stove and piercing the planks in detail. But in a few minutes the smoke filled the jail, penetrating the sheriff's apartment, and creating such an alarm that the family and neighbors alike came to the rescue. The plan failed and was never attempted again.

"The building could not have been more than thirty or thirty-five feet square, but it had an annex that at the time was supposed to be an admirable invention. It was a yard communicating with the prison apartments. The design was merciful and human, affording the prisoners an opportunity of going out in a limited way, to breathe the pure air of heaven, and when in a contemplative mood to look up at the stars. This yard was some twenty feet square, surrounded by a stone wall some twelve or fifteen in height. Sometimes the prisoners might be seen lying prone on the top of the wall enjoying the warm sunshine. Often the circus tents were pitched within twenty rods of the jail, and from the top of the wall, curious prisoners might obtain glimpses of what was going on in the sawdust in the tent. There was a well in the yard, and often the lady of the castle utilized convict labor in having water drawn and carried in for household purposes. A bearing peach tree was also growing in the same yard, during the last years of its occupation.

"Occasionally there were jail deliveries without the authority of the court. It was not hard to get over the wall; nor was it very difficult at times to evade the vigilance of the sheriff's

wife, who often had sole charge, and get out by the front door."

The location of this building was in South Park, in the rear of the present courthouse. It was sold by the commissioners to Josiah Adams, Aug. 27, 1853, for one hundred and fifty-two dollars. It was used as a jail for thirty years.

The second jail was situated on Elk street near Twelfth. It was erected by John Byrnes in 1852-53, under contract for nine thousand, five hundred dollars. The commissioners had purchased the stone in the lock opposite Franklin for two hundred and eighty-six dollars, a year before the contract for the building was made. The warden's residence was a stone building of three stories; the jail proper was in the rear and attached to the warden's house. Rebuilt in 1868, the jail contained two tiers of cells arranged around an open court. The first judicial execution in Venango county occurred within these walls, that of Thomas McCartney, for the murder of Barry in French Creek township. This took place at 12:30 P. M. Oct. 28, 1868. The second public execution in the county, that of Michael Holka for the murder of policeman Edward Meehan, also took place in this building, the sentence being executed Aug. 18, 1908. At same term of court Strail was tried and convicted of murder, for killing his wife. His sentence was commuted by the Board of Pardons to life imprisonment. This building was also found insufficient for the county's needs, and in 1912 a third one was completed, at a cost of forty thousand dollars. It is situated on Elk street. It has better arrangements for the sanitary and secure care of the inmates than either of the former ones. The cells are arranged in two tiers, one above the other. The lower is for the male department, the upper for the women. The two departments are securely separated, so that no communication or assistance can be transferred from one of these floors to the other. The corridors extend around the arrangement of cells on the outside, next to the walls of the building, being thus directly under the care of guardians at all times. The building is three stories in height, and contains the residences of the sheriff and of the warden, in the part fronting upon the street; in the rear is the jail. The structure is built of stone throughout, and is supposed to embody all the modern results of the best thought along this line. The only defects of construction discovered thus far, are some soft iron bars, through which one

prisoner crawled twice, and two others once each. But as usual Uncle Toby said to the wounded fly, "Go, poor creature, the world is large enough." These people will be apprehended, or they will return on a kindred charge, as is usual. In the meantime they have taught the caretakers that iron bars do not make a cage, and tempered steel has been substituted. May it be long before another jail is required!

#### COUNTY FARM

The poor of the county were cared for by the different townships until a recent date. The legislature by an act passed April 13, 1870, conferred upon the county commissioners the duties of overseeing the poor, with authority to erect and support a county house for their care. Roland Hughes, Francis Merrick, John P. Crawford, M. C. Beebe, Charles H. Sheppard, R. S. McCormick and Samuel Plumer were named as commissioners to choose a suitable location. They chose and purchased for twenty thousand dollars the Roberts and Hays farms, in Sugar Creek township, comprising two hundred and seventy-five acres. Plans for an appropriate building were drawn by J. M. Blackburn, architect, and the contract was awarded to Dewees & Simmons, of Tionesta, at their bid of sixty-seven thousand and eight hundred fifty dollars. They also purchased the old courthouse for two thousand dollars. On Nov. 14, 1871, the contractors abandoned their contract, and the county commissioners continued the work by placing J. M. Shoemaker in charge, as superintendent of building. The building was completed Nov. 9, 1872, and was opened for the reception of inmates Dec. 26th.

The building is of brick, three stories high, with sandstone basement partly above ground. Its length is two hundred ninety feet; central projection, one hundred ninety feet in depth;

with tower in front. The three stories, in order, are eleven feet, fourteen feet, and twelve feet high; corridors are sixteen feet wide; transverse corridors, ten feet wide, so that crowding may be avoided in case of fire alarm, panic, etc.—a most important provision. The building is provided with convenient offices, for the stewards' apartment, directors' rooms, physicians' office, dining and sitting rooms. The kitchen, bake-room and laundry are isolated at the west end of the central projection. Fire escapes are provided. A system of water works, ample for all requirements, belongs to the establishment.

The land of this poor farm is as fine as any in the county. It is very fertile and easy of cultivation. While true to its original intention of caring for the unfortunates of the county, the farm is run on the most approved theories, to produce the most, at the least possible outlay. Improved machinery of all kinds, to make labor the most effective, has been introduced. Without losing sight of its real aim, this farm may be made a model of great value to the farming interests of the county, even while dispensing a wise and generous charity. Both of these desirable ends may be attained by one and the same course. Scientific farming, proved by practical results, is the hope of coming time. In answering the call of charity in the most effective way, by testing and proving the best methods of agriculture, our county stewards may help the world by opening the door to hope.

The poor farm is managed by a steward, originally elected triennially by the county commissioners. At present, and this has been the custom for a good number of years past, the stewards are appointed by the commissioners from month to month, and the changes have not been any more frequent than formerly, under other methods.

## CHAPTER VIII

### POLITICAL HISTORY

#### EARLY ORGANIZATION—FIRST LEGAL ARCHIVES—EARLY JUDGES—CONGRESSMEN—DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS—PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

The political history of a community is the story of its reactions toward other communities of the same sort. How has it appeared in that company? Has it kept pace with them in the march onward to better things, or has it lost step and lagged behind?

Spaces covered with thick forests were formerly very difficult to subdue so that they would serve the purposes of civilized life. The wilderness has ever been a stern but most efficient teacher of men. It taught them to be free; to quickly change their methods to meet the ever-changing threats of outlying dangers; to seize the initiative without let or hindrance or waiting for the consent of anyone, when confronted by the forces of hunger or of beasts or of savages. These are as pitiless as the lightning, or the sea in storms. To hesitate is to lose all; there must be full freedom for each to meet and to overcome the forces that mean destruction.

As the solitary places are taken by newcomers coöperation becomes inevitable. Common difficulties bring men together and hold them as with bands of steel. Just here involuntary political action begins among a group of pioneers. Leaders must be chosen to direct the work which the common welfare demands. An association of freemen, all equals, will be formed in the midst of necessities and because of them. This organization, springing into vigorous life from the head of dire need, will proceed to transact the public business of this small group, according to the forms or laws inherited from the past but adapted to present conditions. Fling a body of Americans, like our typical pioneers, upon an island in the Pacific, or if it were possible, land them upon another planet, and they would soon organize a government, a pure democracy, a township if the space were small, or a county, or state, or a federation of equal self-governing states, when space and time suffice.

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#### EARLY ORGANIZATION

It is true that in this Commonwealth the counties were formed or rather "declared" before the townships were "erected"; but in the settlement of the county the township was first, its officers were first elected, before the county assumed definite form. The county waited awhile, inchoate, till its constituent townships acquired sufficient strength to run alone for a little way to show that they were vital things. Venango, a vast space, named but not defined, lay brooding in the forests, for years, while townships were forming, which were taken within her boundaries, and afterwards rejected to become part of a new county. So the counties were limited, even new ones were formed, only after the necessary number of working townships had been created. In 1800 Venango and four others were named, and all called "The county of Crawford"—so said the legislature—five in one, the same, but diverse. In 1805 Venango was duly formed, and her officers were elected. The naming and election is simply the point of departure. It is not history. History begins only with the forward movement of each county along its own pathway toward the attainment of a just and liberal civil policy.

#### FIRST LEGAL ARCHIVES—EARLY JUDGES

Venango history, as a vital part of a great commonwealth, begins with the holding of the first court at Franklin, Dec. 16, 1805. Previous to this time the long arm of the law had reached twice to the town of Franklin in the two earliest cases reported from this county. The first was the trial of a contractor, May 1, 1794, for killing a Munsey Indian at Fort Franklin. The second was Marcus Hulings vs. Isaac Craig, in 1797, to collect freight charges for boating supplies from Pittsburgh

to the troops at Fort Le Boeuf. At Franklin the water was too low to permit the boats to go further. Craig had to carry the cargo upon packhorses to complete the transport to Fort Le Boeuf; hence the trouble about settlement. Both these cases were tried in Allegheny county. Alexander Addison, residing at Pittsburgh, was president judge of the Fifth district, including all the territory from the Ohio west of the Allegheny to the New York State line. He was commended by Washington for his efforts "to bring the people more acquainted with the laws and principles of the government." His ministrations to this county ceased with the trial of these two cases.

At the term of 1805, and subsequently, Venango was led along the intricate paths of the law by her own president judge, in company with the sister counties of Crawford, Erie, Mercer and Warren. The judge was Jesse Moore, who received his appointment to the Sixth district, consisting of the counties named, April 5, 1803. He held a feudal appointment for life and filled this office till his death in 1824, at the age of fifty-nine. He dressed according to the "old school," appearing in smallclothes, knee-breeches, shoe-buckles and long powdered queue. He was summoned to court in the loft of a log building by a tin horn blown lustily by the court crier in the direction of his hotel across the street; but probably during the last six years of his term he was called by the tones of the bell in the cupola of the old stone courthouse. Under his tutelage, assisted by his able associate justices, Thomas McKee and John Irwin, who would know the parties in the cases and pertinent facts, the law was administered in this district for nineteen years. During this period Venango was a law-abiding, self-respecting, living unit.

The war of 1812-15 demonstrated the vigor and fairness of the county's thought concerning her relations toward the rest of the State and to the whole country. It learned early in its civic life the rights of its own citizens and of its neighbors, and of the far-distant ones; and the sanctions of those rights. In war's white light all the citizens of this country looked alike to Venango county. Were they not all free, all equal, all parts of a democracy united into greater and still greater units, and finally into one great nation free in action, free in spirit to do all the things that all could do without harm to any?

It is not the purpose to detail the history of the bench; that is done elsewhere. The political life, as activities passing into history, was quickened, developed and wisely restrained, at

times, by the courts of the county. This is true of the county's history down to the present time. Some of the president judges were later distinguished by their services in the Supreme court of the State; which has availed, perhaps more than some realize, to extend the outlook and sympathies of all thoughtful observers. James Thompson, who was a special District judge in Venango county for six years, served afterward with great approval for fifteen years as Supreme court judge, the last five years of his term as chief justice revealing him as one of the great judicial authorities of the land. John Trunkey, when called to the Supreme court, proved that the insight and judgment shown in his work at Venango were equally applicable to the most complex legal problems. Christopher Heydrick, called to a seat upon the Supreme bench, demonstrated beyond cavil that in legal acumen and vision the bar of Venango was in line with the highest arenas of the law. There have been, and are, other lawyers of this bar of whom also this statement is true. Judicially Venango from the earliest times has been keeping step with the law-abiding elements of the country, seeking to walk in the paths of justice toward civil organization.

#### CONGRESSMEN

Venango's political life is interwoven with that of the Commonwealth by its continuous participation in State legislation. In this way its outlook is broadened as a county; it becomes an active part of a great State. But there is a more important phase of its life, one touched to higher issues. This is its participation in choosing the law making and executive departments of the national government. It makes the county familiar with the aims and policies of the leading parties of the country, and it takes an active part in bringing them success, or in modifying or defeating them. In our country, so vast in extent, so diverse in constituencies, so decidedly the many in the one, the best path is not always plainly discernible. Much consideration is necessary. In an autocracy no such troubles arise; the few govern for their own benefit, the people are not consulted. In the election of the national legislature the people are not confined merely to county interests, they are considering questions affecting the whole country. The groups become transformed into conscious parts of an empire, regarding the whole with telescopic thought. Venango county has been fortunate in the character of the men who have left her borders to enter the Congress of the United

States. The first was John Galbraith, elected in 1832, and reelected in 1834. He took a prominent part as a member of important committees and as a speaker upon the floor. Like many of his successors, he was a lawyer, successful in practice, well versed in the principles of jurisprudence. These early lawyers traveled the circuit of the district with the judge, meeting the people. Court week was gala time in the counties, numerously attended by the voters, who learned much from the lawyers, and also imparted much as they talked politics with the sense of practical men, and whittled. This was one of the chief means then as it has been recently among pioneer counties, of supplying the people with the trend of national affairs, and of anchoring the trained powers of the candidates to the common necessities and common sense of the people. In 1837 Mr. Galbraith moved to Erie, and in 1838 was again returned to Congress from this district. In 1851 he was elected president judge, though a Democrat, of the district consisting of Erie, Crawford and Mercer counties which usually went Whig by a thousand majority. His death in 1860 occurred during his judicial term. His career after leaving this county serves to strengthen the belief which prevailed while he was here, that his leadership was a valuable factor of the political life of this section.

At the close of Galbraith's second term in Congress, his successor in 1836 from Venango county was Arnold Plumer, who also followed Galbraith again in 1840. Mr. Plumer was a direct descendant, in the sixth generation, of Francis Plumer, who with a party of English emigrants settled the town of Newberry, Mass., in 1635. His father, Samuel Plumer, removed to Allegheny county soon after the British took possession there. He afterward settled upon a farm in Jackson township, where Arnold was born in 1801. The frontier life of this family was marked by the lack of many material things that minister to the comfort of life, well-built houses, stoves, windows, lights, roads, newspapers, schools. To offset these were the courage and sense of a man and the strong fine soul of a woman in the home. The neighbors were in like circumstances. Poverty taught them self-denial and self-respect. Of schooling young Arnold received little, except instruction by the mother. She belonged to a famous Massachusetts family. Her maiden name was Patty Adams, and she embodied the culture of the eastern colony. The result of her tuition shows its quality. Political life soon claimed the activities of the young man. His personality convinced men of his ability to

serve, as a flame radiates light. At the age of twenty-two he was elected sheriff of the county. In 1830 Governor Wolfe made him prothonotary, clerk of the courts, and register and recorder. He held these offices till his entrance into the Twenty-fifth Congress in 1836. In 1839 he was appointed marshal for the Western district of Pennsylvania, and left this office to enter the Twenty-seventh Congress in 1840. In 1847 he was again appointed United States marshal for Western Pennsylvania. From this office he was called to serve as State treasurer by a large majority of the legislature. At the close of his term as treasurer he retired to care more closely for his business enterprises; of some of these, showing his breadth of outlook, mention has been made in another portion of this work. In the public service cords are woven strong enough often to draw an individual out of his own inclinations. Mr. Plumer and James Buchanan were very close friends. This is shown by one incident among many that might be cited. At a meeting of his political advisers in Philadelphia to see him off as minister to England in 1853, Mr. Buchanan advised them that if controversies arose regarding his presidential candidacy, to refer all questions to Mr. Plumer. Greater confidence could not be shown.

In 1854, the united Whig and "Know-nothing" parties drove in a wedge separating the Democratic party from the governorship in this State. Buchanan's friends suffered a panic. The Keystone State must be proved safely Democratic or her candidate would be impossible. In 1855 the party leaders virtually forced Mr. Plumer to run for the only State office to be filled that year. He was not seeking office, least of all that of canal commissioner, but Buchanan's promoters, including the press, insisted that he must. As the candidate's most trusted friend, his long experience in public life, and his spotless reputation, decided that he must swing the State back into the fold. He entered the race, was successful, and Buchanan became president in 1856. After the election Mr. Plumer's claims to a seat in the cabinet were urged in the press, and by influential members of the party. This line of thought did not appeal to Mr. Plumer. It would seem to commercialize his efforts to help his friend and to serve his party, which to him had appeared as unselfish duties, assumed reluctantly, not for personal reward, but because it was thought by many to be the right course. One paper spoke of his appointment as postmaster general as a certainty; and this was thought authoritative, from its source near the

President, and Mr. Buchanan had expressed his preference for Mr. Plumer to friends urging his selection. This use of his name was unknown to Mr. Plumer, and when he learned of it he issued a statement that he was not seeking, and could not accept, a seat in the cabinet even if it were offered. His health had become impaired several years previous to this time, when he had desired to retire from the insistent demands of office, which had become irksome to him. This somewhat extended notice seems appropriate from the fact that his career is typical of the healthy growth and rapid expansion of county political life to the touch of national issues. His life brought the people to a better knowledge of the principles of their national government. He was a Democrat. It is not necessary to belong to his party in order to commend the fairness of his political practices. He believed in the full discussion of principles and the absolute decision of the franchise. To attain success by the methods of the "slick" political practician was an art unknown to him, was not for such as he.

Mr. Plumer was succeeded in 1842 by Gen. Samuel Hays—the title was complimentary, his commission was created by the salutations of his friends. He came to Franklin in 1803, as a young man, with no apparent resources except what his hat covered. He was direct from Ireland and possessed the pleasing traits of the race. He had a fine presence, was witty, good-natured, with an "easy-going" tongue. He made friends who stood with him through difficulties. Before many years he was known as a rising man, one whose influence was to be reckoned with in the county. In business affairs his judgment was shrewd but always liberal to others. Frontier life agreed with him, including the people of the frontier. He soon became an office holder and perhaps exceeded all others in length and variety of public service. He was a Democrat, yet he owed his success more to his personality than to his party. He was elected sheriff in 1808, 1820, 1829 and 1835. He was made a member of assembly in 1813, 1816, 1823 and 1825; of the State Senate in 1822 and 1839. He was also United States marshal of the Western district, was elected to Congress in 1842, and was made associate judge of the county in 1856. He discharged the duties of all parts of his official life to the satisfaction of his constituents and with credit to himself. His service had a distinctive quality. At a time when political differences were tending to bitterness, his fair judgment and versatile nature did much to create good feeling, not only within the county,

but among prominent people of the nation toward him and his district. He possessed a "good disposition," one of the finest gifts of the gods to men. It is a figurative term meaning that all the man's powers are rightly placed or disposed so as to be most effective. He was worth while to the political life. He guided it pleasingly, without changing the speed or direction of its progress.

The next Congressman from the county came in 1848, in the person of John W. Howe, a lawyer from Franklin. He was born in Maine, in 1801, removed to Smethport, this State, at an early age, and settled in Franklin in 1830. His law practice here was small at first. He supplemented it by serving as justice of the peace, having been appointed to that office by Governor Wolfe. His work as magistrate commanded the respect of the county. He was the first Congressman from this county elected by the Whig party. This served to diversify and extend the activities of the political life of this section. He was reelected by the Whigs two years later, during the heat of the fugitive slave law discussion. He was one of the first in this section to openly favor the anti-slavery agitation. His influence with the Whigs was lessened by his progress in the Free-soil doctrine; but this action of his was a most valuable factor of local political life. Policies must be modified, when they have brought the ship among the rocks. He was an advanced proclaimer of the needed reform—or else of the terrible storm. Like a prophet of old he sought to arouse the people.

The next Congressman nominally from this county was C. V. Culver, who was elected as a Republican in 1864. He was not a part of the county, but rather a chance visitor attracted hither by the hope of exploiting the immense values resulting from the oil production. He aimed to be more than a Napoleon of finance. He organized a private bank in New York City; with funds from this a second; from the two a third, and so on, each successive one spun from the insides of the others, till he had a chain of them around the oil. The mother bank might reabsorb the children, and then what? The National Banks established at this time pleased him very much. By depositing a certain sum with the United States treasurer he could receive an equal amount of gold-bearing-interest bonds, and ninety *per cent* additional in currency. With part of this currency another national bank could be established, from these a third. It was a greater bubble than John Law dreamed of. He expected to blow one inclosing a good

share of the country. His success was meteoric. He had made some fine triangular calculations in the air. His only trouble was that the base line from which all his calculations had been made was also in the air, unmeasured and unmeasurable. The banks were so closely related that when one fell all must go down—like a row of books placed on end within touching distance along a circle. If one goes over, all the rest follow. When the crash came some were hurt worse than others. The effect upon political life—who can tell? Psychological perhaps, expressed in some such aphorism as "Beware of magicians who profess to multiply dollars by moving them about, so that they appear in several places at once." Many believe that Culver & Company by reorganizing the unnoticed pieces of wreckage into a stock concern, quit with more money than it had at the start.

In 1868 Calvin W. Gilfillan was elected from Venango county. He was a Republican and a lawyer, a member of one of the most efficient law firms of the county, conversant with all phases of the political life of the district and its immeasurable increase in commercial activity and in importance. Under his wise guidance the political life of the county expanded easily and naturally along lines fitting to its recent attainment of wealth and of responsibility. After the fitful fever recently in Venango's veins the change was most helpful and wholesome.

In 1874 the district chose Dr. Albert G. Egbert, from Venango, to represent it in Congress. He was a physician, evidently from a family line of physicians, since his two brothers were also members of the same profession. All three were eminent in this chosen work. He was the first Democrat to represent the district since 1856, a period of eighteen years, indicating that the Doctor possessed strong elements of popularity. It shows also that the voters were considering and weighing the claims of the different parties. The district was alive politically, not automatic. Dr. Egbert served his constituents well, but he did not wish to continue in office. His business interests demanded his attention.

His successor from this county, entering in 1878, was James H. Osmer, a lawyer and a Republican, from Franklin. His early life upon a farm inured him to toil. He supplemented early schooling by earning his way, alternately teaching and studying, completing in this manner a thorough college course, and securing a fine literary and classical education.

He was admitted to the bar of Venango county in 1865 and soon won a large practice in various courts, including the State Supreme court. He was a clean, strong, honest man, well versed in the history of the State and of the nation.

In 1892 Joseph C. Sibley, a prominent business man of Franklin, was elected to Congress. He entered as a Democrat, and took a leading part in the business of the House. As a speaker upon the floor he was magnetic and convincing. The people believed in him, especially those who knew him best, his neighbors in Venango county, and acquaintances in the other counties of the district. These valued him, not as a partisan politician, but as a friend of the people. They esteemed character as higher than the name of a party. Their faith was eternally right. In 1898, and for the next three succeeding terms, Mr. Sibley was returned in this district, but during this period he was known as a Republican. The people held fast to their faith in their Congressman. They recognized his right to change his party name as a common privilege exercised by men in all ranks of public life. This could not change his disposition and the tendencies of his life. As they had known him, so he would continue, in favor of the general welfare.

All parties are right and all are wrong. Principles should govern. Men bound by party ties or herded in party tents beyond escape, do not see principles more readily than others. The whole world to-day is thundering this truth.

At the close of his fifth term, while friends were urging him to continue in office, Mr. Sibley found that his health, which had required care for years, would not permit him to remain in public life. Since he retired he has not regained the strength required for the grind of steady care. River Bridge Farm is a wise appeal for agriculture, the art sustaining all other arts.

Following Mr. Sibley from Venango county was Peter M. Speer, an Oil City lawyer, Republican in politics. He was elected in 1910. He is a thorough student, a college graduate, and is in touch with the classic and modern thought of the world. In his profession he is clear and incisive in apprehension of law principles, broad in comprehension of jurisprudence and trustworthy in their application to his cases. He is familiar with Venango's early history, honors the heroism in the hardships of the pioneers. He joins their history to the natural beauty of its setting, which he still finds in the county's scenery. In Congress

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he was true to the best interests of his constituents and his work was admired and commended by them.

Hon. Willis J. Hulings served in the House during the sessions of the Sixty-third Congress in 1913-15. He belongs to this county, his people having lived here in active parts since 1797. Patriotism is a marked characteristic of the family. General Hulings served his country during the Spanish-American war. He was made a brigadier general in recognition of his ability. His work in Congress was dominated by his ideal of duty. He is a ready and fluent platform speaker and has given valuable aid to the recruiting officers of the United States army.

This completes the list of the Congressmen from Venango county from the beginning. They, more than any other men, have shaped the political life of the county and determined the course of its history. Congressmen are officers of the United States. They belong to the whole country, and not simply to a part or the whole of a State. Venango has been especially fortunate in having men of a high order of intelligence and of versatile gifts. They have been able to harmonize the political life of the county with the great civic life of the country.

Up to the present time Venango county has not possessed among her sons or residents a member of the United States Senate. This honor is still part of her future. Venango was nearer the attainment of this distinction in 1845 than she has been before or since. At that time it looked probable that the county would have a member of the United States Senate. A young lawyer from Franklin came within one vote of being nominated by the Democratic party, when a nomination meant an election. This is the county's nearest approach to the august Senate. The man was James Ross Snowden, not quite thirty-six years old. At the age of nineteen a college graduate and already admitted to the bar, he settled in Franklin to practice his profession. He was soon appointed deputy attorney general or district attorney as the official is now termed, entered public life, and for several terms represented the Venango district in the State legislature, serving as speaker of the House in 1842 and 1844. In 1845 he was elected State treasurer, and reelected in the following year. He possessed the confidence of all parties and was known as a person of great power and of strict integrity. In 1846 President Polk offered him the position of treasurer of the mint, with the assistant treas-

urership of the United States at Philadelphia, which he accepted. He returned to the practice of his profession in 1850 and was appointed solicitor of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which place he left to accept the directorship of the United States mint, tendered him by President Pierce. He filled this position with satisfaction till 1861, when he was appointed prothonotary of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania. In 1873 he again took up his profession, in Philadelphia. His career shows that he was worthy of membership in the Senate of the United States. It is also an unanswerable witness of the vigor and broad out-reach of the county's political life.

DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

Venango has another class of men who have widened the horizon of its history by taking a direct part in the election of the executive and therefore in the control of the national administration. We refer to those who have served in the national conventions which nominated the president or in the colleges of electors who voted directly for him. The records are not complete. If one could search the files existing somewhere in dusty places, he could doubtless find a greater number of delegates and electors from this county than can now be named.

In 1848 Associate Judge Samuel Irwin was chosen as a presidential elector and cast his ballot for Taylor and Fillmore.

Hon. John S. McCalmont was made a member of the electoral college of this State in 1853 and voted for Franklin Pierce.

Calvin W. Gilfillan was a delegate to the convention which nominated General Grant for the presidency in 1870. He was also a member of the electoral college in 1880 and cast his ballot for Garfield and Arthur.

James H. Osmer was elected a delegate to the national Republican convention which nominated Hayes and Wheeler.

Hon. J. D. Hancock, the eminent lawyer and lifelong student of history and finance, attended as a delegate the political convention of the "Gold Democrats" which nominated Palmer and Buckner in 1896. He believed Bryan's stand in favor of the silver standard a heresy.

Dr. Fred W. Brown was a member of the Chicago convention which nominated Theodore Roosevelt in 1912.

Capt. William Hasson, of Scotch and Huguenot ancestry, a lifelong Democrat and student

of politics, was a delegate to the Baltimore Democratic convention which nominated Woodrow Wilson. He represented the county in the legislature in 1875-76, 1883-84 and 1899-1900. In 1859, soon after Drake struck oil, Mr. Hasson drilled a well on his own land and became an oil producer, and from that time to the present he has been a producer of oil practically every minute. This fact made him valuable as a representative of the men and interests of the county.

Carlyle says, "History is the essence of in-

numerable biographies." This is true. Back of the few well known representatives, whose lives illustrate a growing, changing, sometimes contradictory, political history stands a shadowy multitude touching hands through a hundred and twenty years from wilderness into civilized life. The biographies of this great host are not written, but their "essence" is well known. Each chosen leader in Venango county stood for the belief of the majority in his time.

## CHAPTER IX

### COUNTY OFFICIALS

**EARLY AUTHORITIES—REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS—STATE SENATORS—STATE REPRESENTATIVES—PRESIDENT JUDGES—DISTRICT JUDGE—ASSOCIATE JUDGES—PROTHONOTARIES—REGISTERS AND RECORDER—COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—COUNTY TREASURERS—COUNTY AUDITORS—SHERIFFS—CORONERS—COUNTY SURVEYORS—DISTRICT ATTORNEYS—JURY COMMISSIONERS—SOME EARLY TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS, 1801 TO 1828**

William Penn was a feudal lord. He was a remainder of a system, perhaps necessary in more barbarous times when might made right; when only a fortress was a safe home; far back in the time when there were only spots in the world where the light shone which shall soon illuminate the whole earth, making every home a strong castle surrounded and defended by universal civilization. The feudal system rested upon the protection of the lord or king, granted for the homage of the vassal who knelt placing his hands within those of the lord and solemnly swore to be his man, his *homo*, and to serve him with all his resources, including life itself. Under this system civilization advanced, hampered. It was chained to a body of death, to ancient injustice; but even in Penn's time, and indeed with his help, some of the chains had been broken. It is probable that when Penn received the grant of forty-five thousand square miles of land in fee simple the old forms of administering the feud were dispensed with, the realities were all assumed. (Though mentioned by early writers as forty-four thousand acres, the grant really comprised over forty-five thousand.)

Charles II of England, the grantor, resembled a celebrated character of the New Testament who also assumed to give away

kingdoms. The poor devil did not own a foot of the land so freely disposed of; but he could discharge the debt due to Penn's father, amounting to several million dollars, considering purchasing powers then and now, and why not? If good came, it would be his. His imaginary title to this land had already led him to make gifts to several of large portions of it, leaving to the claimants a litigious, rancorous red-handed quarrel for the next hundred years. In this, his resemblance to the character of that one who led the Son of Man into a high mountain is again emphasized.

#### EARLY AUTHORITIES

Penn's charter gave him authority to form a colony and to govern it by such laws as should be pleasing "to a majority of the colonists." "The majority of the colonists" is the name of the fatal disease which at that time in England was already fastened upon the old system. Feudalism dies hard; and some of its inherited defects yet survive. The king was once the state, the source of authority, the owner of all things, the disposer. "*L'état c'est moi.*" ("The state, that is I"), said the great Louis; but only a little later, a change came in England by which the state IS, eternally, the consent of the majority. Penn was so

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great a personality that he could satisfy and harmonize a more diverse and discordant class of settlers than came to any other colony. His colony remained in his possession and that of his family for ninety-four years, and was the most prosperous of all the colonies at the end of that time—a record of private ownership and government unequaled in extent of territory and length of time in the world's history. Kings may have possessed such domains, but never before a private citizen who scorned all titles. His influence was unequalled while he lived; his example is still a compelling force. As he himself expressed it, he "yielded in circumstantial to preserve the essentials." But sooner or later, even had Penn lived a half century longer still possessing all his gifts in pristine vigor, the inevitable conflict between proprietary and people would have arisen and resulted about as it did in 1776. William Penn would have retired with all his rights preserved to him—the largest land owner, the chief citizen of the state, one of the immortals in life, as he is now in death.

This conflict became apparent soon after Penn's death. The governor as representative of the proprietaries, and the Assembly elected by the people, were at loggerheads continuously. Historians, who did not study the matter carefully, have generally blamed the people, claiming that their action embarrassed their own colony as well as the others, especially during the Indian wars and the Revolution. There was a principle involved, a most essential one—the right of the majority to know how the taxes were to be used which they were asked to pay. The Assembly would not levy taxes except as they themselves determined the necessity and the amount. The governor, by the veto threat, sought to enlarge the amount fixed by the Assembly. The colonists were contending for their rights as Englishmen, guaranteed by Magna Charta and in the Original Frame of their own government in other words for the right of the majority to rule; the governor was trying to curtail that right. The trouble was caused by the appointee of an appointee of a foreign King, delegated authority delegated again. It did not have the sanction of Charles II's charter. It did not please the majority of the colonists. It was a struggle for liberty. The people would not surrender the right of taxation, belonging to their own representatives, into the hands of foreigners.

This contention ceased in 1776, when the colonists joined the war for Independence. At the close of the Revolution all rights of

the proprietary vested in the Commonwealth, though the colonists very generously respected the claims of Penn's heirs to all lands secured by purchase from the Indians. For a surprising number of years after the Revolution the power of the governor to appoint officers, even some who were to serve for life, or during good behavior, was recognized by more than one constitution of Pennsylvania. And stranger still, some of these appointees had the power of appointing other officials. This was a kind of political game which might well have been named like a puzzle picture: Find the hidden man! This remnant of the feudalistic character of Penn's charter has now happily almost disappeared. The officials who are to serve the people are now elected by the people to whom they are responsible, for limited terms. About the only exceptions are in administrative or executive offices where the duties are beyond the power of one person, and deputies or assistants must be appointed, by the chief necessarily to secure harmony of action.

The list of Venango county officials, and of representatives in the Congress of the United States and in the legislature of Pennsylvania, follows: Venango now forms part of the Twenty-eighth Congressional district, with Mercer, Warner, Forest and Elk counties.

## REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS

1800, Albert Gallatin, Washington county; 1801, William Hoge, Washington county; 1803, John Hoge, Washington county; 1804, John B. C. Lucas, Beaver county; 1805, Samuel Smith, Erie county; 1810 (re-elected), Abner Lacock, Beaver county; 1813 (re-elected), Thomas Wilson, Erie county; 1816 (re-elected), Robert Moore, Beaver county; 1820 (re-elected), Patrick Farrelly, Crawford county; 1826, Thomas H. Sill, Erie county, (vice Patrick Farrelly, deceased); 1826, Stephen Barlow, Crawford county; 1828, Thomas H. Sill, Erie county; 1830, John Banks, Mercer county; 1832 (re-elected), John Galbraith, Venango county; 1836, Arnold Plumer, Venango; 1838, John Galbraith, Erie county; 1840, Arnold Plumer, Venango county; 1842, Samuel Hays, Venango county; 1844, William S. Garvin, Mercer county; 1846, John W. Farrelly, Crawford county; 1848 (re-elected), John W. Howe, Venango county; 1852, C. B. Curtis, Warren county; 1854, David Barclay, Jefferson county; 1856, James L. Gillis, Elk county; 1858, Chapin Hall, Warren county; 1860,

John Patton, Clearfield county; 1862, Amos Myers, Clarion county; 1864, C. V. Culver, Venango county; 1866, Darvin A. Finney, Crawford county; 1868, S. Newton Pettis, Crawford county (vice Darvin A. Finney, deceased); 1868, Calvin W. Gilfillan, Venango county; 1870, Samuel Griffith, Mercer county; 1872, Hiram L. Richmond, Crawford county; 1874, Albert G. Egbert, Venango county; 1876, Lewis F. Watson, Warren county; 1878, John H. Osmer, Venango county; 1880, Lewis F. Watson, Warren county; 1882, Samuel M. Brainerd, Erie county; 1884 (re-elected), William L. Scott, Erie county; 1888, Lewis F. Watson, Warren county; 1890 (to fill vacancy), Charles W. Stone, Warren county; 1892, Charles W. Stone, Warren county; 1896, Charles W. Stone, Warren county; 1900 (re-elected), Joseph S. Sibley, Venango county; 1906, Nelson P. Wheeler (re-elected), Forest county; 1910, Peter M. Speer, Venango county; 1912, Willis J. Hulings, Venango county; 1914, S. H. Miller, Mercer county; 1916, E. H. Beshlin, Warren county; 1918, Willis J. Hulings.

#### STATE SENATORS

1800, John Hamilton, Washington county; 1801, William McArthur, Crawford county; 1809, Wilson Smith, Erie county; 1812, Joseph Shannon, Erie county; 1816, Henry Hurst, Crawford county; 1821, Jacob Herrington, Mercer county; 1822, Samuel Hays, Venango county; 1827, Eben F. Kelly; 1835, M. Kelly; 1839, Samuel Hays, Venango county; 1842, William P. Wilcox; 1845, James P. Hoover, Venango county; 1848, J. Porter Brawley, Crawford county; 1851, John Hoye, Mercer county; 1854, Thomas Hoge, Venango county; 1857, Glenny W. Scofield, Warren county; 1859, William M. Francis, Lawrence county; 1860, James H. Robinson, Mercer county; 1863, Thomas Hoge, Venango county; 1866, James C. Brown, Mercer county; 1869, Harrison Allen, Warren county; 1872, Samuel McKinley, Lawrence county; 1874, W. S. McMullen, Venango county; 1876, Charles W. Stone, Warren county; 1878 (re-elected), J. W. Lee, Venango county; 1886, O. C. Allen, Warren county; 1890, W. R. Crawford, Venango county; 1894, Charles W. Shortt, Warren county; 1898, Henry H. Cummings, Warren county; 1906, Willis J. Hulings, Venango county; 1910, Frank M. Knapp, Warren county; 1914, Marshall Phipps, Venango county; re-elected, 1918.

Venango and Warren counties now form the Forty-eighth Senatorial district.

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVES

1800, Samuel Ewalt and Thomas Morton represented the district composed of the counties of "Crawford, Allegheny, etc., as indicated on the journal of the XIth House. On Dec. 1, 1801, at the first session of the XIIth House, Alexander Buchanan represented the district "composed of the counties of Crawford, Venango, Warren, Erie and Mercer." Buchanan was succeeded by the following: 1802, John Lytle, Jr. (re-elected 1803 and 1804); 1805, Wilson Smith (re-elected in 1806 and 1807); 1808, Samuel Dale and Bevan Pearson—district, Venango and Mercer; 1809, Samuel Dale and James Montgomery (re-elected 1810, 1811, 1812), same district; 1813, Samuel Hays and Jacob Herrington, same district; 1814, David Dempsey and Jacob Herrington, same district; 1815, James Weston, Ralph Marlin and Jacob Herrington—district, Mercer, Erie, Crawford, Warren and Venango; 1816, Samuel Hays, Ralph Marlin and Jacob Herrington—same district; 1817, Thomas Wilson, Ralph Marlin, Samuel Hays—same district; 1818, Jacob Herrington, James Cochran and Joseph Hackney—same district; 1819, Wilson Smith, James Cochran and William Connely—same district; 1820, Jacob Herrington, William Smith and William Connely—same district; 1821, David Brown, James Cochran and George Moore—same district; 1822, James Cochran—district, Venango and Crawford; 1823 (re-elected), Samuel Hays—same district; 1825, William Foster—same district; 1826, Thomas Atkinson—same district; 1827, George R. Espy—same district; 1828, John Galbraith—same district; 1829, John Galbraith (re-elected 1830-31)—district, Venango and Warren; 1832, James Thompson (re-elected in 1833-34)—same district; 1835, Hugh McClelland—same district; 1836 (re-elected), George R. Espy—district, Venango; 1838 (re-elected), James Ross Snowden—same district; 1840, Alexander Holeman—same district; 1841, James Ross Snowden—same district; 1842, David B. Long. From 1843 to 1850 Venango, Jefferson and Clarion constituted a district and elected two representatives. James Ross Snowden, Robert Mitchell and William Perry were elected from Venango county during this period. In 1850, Morris Leech, Glenny W. Scofield and John W. Shugert were elected from the district

consisting of Mercer, Warren and Venango; 1851, John W. Shugert, Joseph Y. James and L. N. McGrannahan—same district; 1852, L. N. McGrannahan, John J. Kilgore and Carter V. Kinnear—same district; 1853, John J. Kilgore, L. T. Parmlee, and Robert M. De France—same district; 1854, S. P. McCalmont, Ralph Clapp and Daniel Lott—same district; 1855, S. P. McCalmont, Daniel Lott and Samuel Kerr—same district; 1856, S. P. McCalmont, Samuel Kerr and Thomas Struthers—same district; 1857, Thomas Struthers, William G. Rose and C. P. Ramsdell—same district; 1858, William G. Rose and C. P. Ramsdell—district, Mercer and Venango; 1859 (re-elected), George D. Hofius and Elisha W. Davis—same district; 1861 (re-elected), M. C. Beebe and James C. Brown—same district; 1863 (re-elected), William Burywin and Charles Koonce—same district. In 1865, Venango and Warren composed one district. During the nine years of this arrangement, the representatives elected from this county were: W. L. Whann, A. P. Duncan, J. D. McJunkin and R. D. McCreary. Since 1874 Venango has constituted a district, and John M. Dickey, J. P. Park and William Hasson were elected; 1876, J. M. Dickey, William Gates and George E. Mapes; 1878, George E. Mapes, Samuel B. Myers, and J. L. Dewoody; 1880, Samuel B. Myers, George E. Mapes and Willis J. Hulings; 1882, Willis J. Hulings, William Hasson and James S. Gates; 1884, Willis J. Hulings, George S. Criswell and Frank Riddle; 1886, George S. Criswell, Robert F. Glenn and O. P. Morrow; 1888, O. P. Morrow and F. W. Hays; 1890, F. W. Hays and Henry F. James; 1892 (re-elected), Henry F. James and John L. Mattox; 1896, Thomas McGough and Peter M. Speer; 1898, George Maloney and William Hasson; 1900, John P. Emory and George Maloney; 1902, George W. Magee and B. H. Osborne; 1904, Bryan H. Osborne and George W. Magee; 1906, Ira A. Milliron and W. F. Whitman; 1908, S. G. Foster and Ira A. Milliron; 1910, John A. Crumm and W. F. Whitman; 1912, William F. Whitman and Donald Glenn; 1914, Donald Glenn and Daniel B. Goodwin; 1916, Daniel B. Goodwin and John H. McKinney, the latter now a volunteer in the United States army; 1918, Frank V. Mallery, Joseph T. Foster.

#### PRESIDENT JUDGES

President Judges were appointed by the governor, and enjoyed a life tenure, under the constitution of 1790. In 1838, the term was

limited to ten years; and in 1851 the remains of feudalism disappeared from this office when it was made elective. Incumbents: 1791, Alexander Addison; 1803, Jesse Moore; 1825, Henry Shippen; 1839, Nathaniel B. Eldred; 1843, Gaylord Church; 1839, Alexander McCalmont; 1849, Joseph Buffington, of the Eighteenth Judicial district, to which Venango was attached in 1849. John C. Knox was elected in 1851. John S. McCalmont, appointed in 1853, was elected during the same year, and resigned in 1861, when Glenn W. Scofield was appointed. In 1861 James Campbell was elected; 1866, Isaac G. Gordon was appointed to the newly created Twenty-eighth Judicial district, but Judge Trunkey was elected to this district in October of the same year, and re-elected in 1876. Following his resignation in 1877, when he was appointed to a higher court, Charles E. Taylor was appointed. He was elected Nov. 5, 1878, and was re-elected Nov. 6, 1888. In November, 1895, George S. Criswell was elected and re-elected in 1905 and 1915. His present term therefore, extends to 1925.

#### DISTRICT JUDGE

On May 18, 1839, James Thompson, of Venango county, was appointed to serve the counties of Venango, Erie, Crawford and Mercer and held office till May, 1845. He was a bright lawyer, and served the district created for him satisfactorily, afterwards attaining distinction as Chief Justice of the Supreme court.

#### ASSOCIATE JUDGES

These were at first appointed for life terms, or during good behavior; but by the constitution of 1838 the term was limited to five years. In 1850, the office was made elective. John Irwin and Thomas McKee were commissioned July 4, 1850. They took the oath of office on the 17th of October following. James G. Heron was appointed Dec. 3, 1850, and was formally inducted Jan. 27, 1851. His duties as county commissioner apparently kept him from serving as judge till March, 1858, and he died in 1859. Judges Irwin and McKee served for many years. Richard Irwin's term began in December, 1838; Robert Mitchell, 1840; Benjamin A. Plumer, 1843; James Kinnear, 1845; Alexander Holeman, 1845; Robert Cross, 1851; John H. Smiley, 1856; Samuel Hays, 1856; David Phipps, 1856; in 1857. W. W. Davison; 1861, Joshua Davis; 1862, William Connelly and Robert Lamber-

ton; 1866, R. S. McCormick; 1867, James L. Connely. Venango county was made a separate judicial district (the Twenty-eighth) in 1877, and by the constitution of 1873, the office of associate judge was abolished in such counties.

#### PROTHONOTARIES

These officers were appointed by the governor for a term of three years till 1838, since when they have been elected by the people. Since 1857 one person has been elected prothonotary, clerk of the court of Quarter Sessions, of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery, and another person recorder of deeds and clerk of the Orphans' court; before this date, one person performed all the duties of both offices. On September 2, 1805, William Moore was appointed as prothonotary, register and recorder, etc.; April 27, 1818, Alexander McCalmont; April 21, 1824, Andrew Bowman; Feb. 27, 1830, Arnold Plumer; Feb. 27, 1836, Alexander McDowell; Dec. 31, 1840, James P. Hoover; Dec. 3, 1842, George W. Connely; Dec. 4, 1848, Alexander Cochran; William Elliott, Dec. 4, 1854; John A. Dale, vice William Elliott, deceased, appointed Aug. 3, 1857; R. L. Cochran, Dec. 3, 1857; C. E. Lyttle, Dec. 4, 1860; J. H. Smith, Dec. 3, 1866; E. G. Crawford, 1869; Isaac Reineman, Jan. 3, 1876; Phillip Engelskirger, Jan. 2, 1882; John H. Evans (re-elected), Jan. 2, 1888; J. H. Robertson (re-elected), January, 1894; Marshall Phipps, January, 1900; Marshall Phipps, January, 1903; S. Judd Thompson (re-elected), January, 1906; W. W. Davison (re-elected), January, 1912; second term of W. W. Davison began in January, 1916. He is the present incumbent.

#### REGISTERS AND RECORDERS

Nathaniel D. Snowden, Dec. 3, 1857; H. B. Gordon, Dec. 4, 1860; Alexander McDowell, May 30, 1866, vice H. B. Gordon, deceased; James W. Shaw, Dec. 1, 1866; John P. Barr, Jan. 3, 1876; C. J. Crawford (re-elected), January, 1885; Frank Barr, January, 1891 (re-elected 1894); Josiah R. Dodds, January, 1897, re-elected 1900; D. K. Buchanan, January, 1903, re-elected January, 1906; H. G. Johnson, January, 1909, re-elected January, 1912, and 1916. He is therefore the present holder of the office.

#### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

were elected annually for a term of three years until the adoption of the constitution

of 1873, which provided for triennial election of the entire board of three members. The first board consisted of Ninian Irwin, Caleb Crane and James G. Heron. Heron served from October, 1805, to October, 1806; Crane from October, 1805, to October, 1807; Irwin, October, 1805, to October, 1808; James McClaran, October, 1806, to August, 1808; Samuel Ray, Jr., October, 1807, to October, 1810; John Shaw, appointed vice James McClaran, resigned, August, 1808, to October, 1808; John Nelson, October, 1808, to February, 1810; George McClelland, October, 1808, to November, 1812; David Brown appointed vice John Nelson, resigned, February, 1810, to October, 1810; John Wilson, October, 1810, to October, 1813; James McClaran, October, 1810, to October, 1814; John Hamilton, November, 1812, to August, 1814; Robert Mitchell, October 1813, to October, 1816; John McCalmont, Jr., appointed vice John Hamilton, resigned, August, 1814, to October, 1814; Alexander McCalmont, November, 1814, to October, 1817; John Wilson, October, 1814, to October, 1818; Abraham Selders, October, 1816, to October, 1819; William Kinnear, October, 1817, to October, 1820; Robert Mitchell, October, 1818, to October, 1821; Craft Ghost, October, 1819, to October, 1822; Welden Adams, October, 1820, to October, 1823; James Kinnear, October, 1821, to October, 1824; Barnhart Martin, October, 1822, to October, 1825; John Witherup, October, 1823, to October, 1826; John Broadfoot, October, 1824, to October, 1827; Alexander Holeman, October, 1825, to October, 1828; James Martin, October, 1826, to October, 1829; James Mason, Jr., October, 1827, to October, 1830; Richard Irwin, October, 1828, to October, 1831; William Elliott, October, 1829, to October, 1832; Joshua Davis, October, 1830, to October, 1833; Morgan Perry, October, 1831, to October, 1834; James Hamilton, Jr., October, 1832, to October, 1835; George Kribbs, October, 1833, to October, 1836; James Adams, October, 1834, to October, 1837; Lewis T. Reno, October, 1835, to October, 1838; James Hasson, October, 1836, to October, 1839; Robert Bradley, October, 1837, to October, 1840; William Perry, October, 1838, to October, 1841; John Shannon, October, 1839, to October, 1842; William Hamilton, October, 1840, to October, 1843; Patrick Davidson, October, 1841, to October, 1844; John D. McWilliams, October, 1842, to October, 1845; Nathaniel Cary, October, 1843, to October, 1846; Patrick Culvertson, October, 1844, to October, 1847; David Adams,

October, 1845, to October, 1848; R. A. Brashear, October, 1846, to October, 1849; Robert Archer, October, 1847, to October, 1850; J. J. Kilgore, October, 1848, to October, 1851; William Siggins, October, 1849, to March, 1851; M. B. Shannon, October, 1850, to October, 1853; Putman McKissick, appointed vice William Siggins, resigned, March, 1851, to October, 1852; John Boughner, November, 1851, to November, 1854; Robert Dickson, November, 1852, to November, 1855; William Cowan, November, 1853, to November, 1856; James McCutcheon, November, 1854, to November, 1857; James Duffield, November, 1855, to October, 1858; John Willings, November, 1856, to October, 1859; James Ritchey, Sr., November, 1857, to October, 1860; Isaac Tallman, October, 1858, to November, 1861; Joseph A. Allen, October, 1859, to October, 1862; Robert Martin, October, 1860, to October, 1863; William Smith, November, 1861, to November, 1864; R. H. McFate, October, 1862, to October, 1865; Thomas Holmden, October, 1863, to August, 1865; B. F. Mark, November, 1864, to October, 1867; William Smith appointed vice Thomas Holmden, resigned, August, 1865, to October, 1865; James Duncan, October, 1865, to October, 1869; D. H. Cassidy, October, 1865, to October, 1868; Wilson Davis, October, 1867, to October, 1870; John Davidson, November, 1868, to October, 1871; James Y. Siggins, October, 1869, to November, 1872; Henry Dubbs, October, 1870, to November, 1873; James P. Riddle, October, 1871, to December, 1874; A. M. Turner, November, 1872, to January, 1876; C. E. Lytle, November, 1873, to January, 1876; Thomas McKee, December, 1874, to January, 1876; W. L. Armstrong, James Vanderlin, Thomas McKee, January, 1876, to January, 1879; Albert Tyrrell, Hugh Craig, T. R. Homan, January, 1879, to January, 1882; Robert M. Sterritt, Hugh Craig, Thomas J. Eakin, January, 1882, to January, 1885; Thomas J. Eakin, L. C. Heasley, January, 1885, to January, 1888; A. W. Cox, January, 1885, to July, 1886; Samuel A. McAlevy, appointed vice A. W. Cox, deceased, July, 1886, to January, 1888; William A. Maitland, J. D. Patterson, S. H. McKinney took office in January, 1888; William A. Maitland, Samuel H. McKinney, J. D. Patterson, Jan. 1, 1891; James A. Wallace, Thomas B. La Rue, William Brosang, January, 1894; James T. Wallace, Joseph M. Black, James P. McClelland, January, 1897; Samuel A. Thomas, Joseph M. Black, J. W. Plimpton, January, 1900; S. Boyd Baker, George O.

Styles, W. J. Pringle, January, 1903; H. H. Baumgardner, J. W. Phillips, Harvey A. Graham, January, 1906; H. H. Baumgardner, J. W. Phillips, M. P. Heasley, January, 1909; John L. Shaffer, James I. Wallace, P. H. Culbertson, January, 1912; John L. Shaffer, Fred S. Gates, P. H. Culbertson, January, 1916. The present board, consisting of Shaffer, Gates and Culbertson, holds office till January, 1920.

#### COUNTY TREASURERS

were appointed by the county commissioners till 1841, when the office became elective. Alexander McDowell was treasurer of the county 1805-57; Samuel Hays, 1808; John Broadfoot, 1809-10; George McClelland, 1813-15; John McCalmont, Jr., 1816-18; James Kinnear, 1819; George McClelland, 1820-21; John Luper, 1822-23; George McClelland, 1824; George Power, 1825; John Evans, 1826; Hugh McClelland, 1827-28; Myron Park, 1829-30; Samuel Huston, 1831-32; William Raymond, 1833-34; George Espy, 1835 and to November, 1836, when he resigned; Benjamin A. Plumer, November, 1836, to January, 1839; John Haslet, 1839-40; William M. Smiley, 1842-43; William Elliott, 1844-45; Thomas H. Martin, 1846-47; Jacob Mays, 1848-49; Jacob G. Keefer, 1850-51; James Bleakley, 1852-53; James Griffin, 1854-55; Miles W. Sage, 1856-57; John P. McKinley, 1858-59; George W. Brigham, 1860-61; R. J. Canan, 1862-63; Henry Dubbs, 1864-65; James Allison, 1866-67; Thomas S. Morrison, 1868-69; J. R. Grant, 1870-71; N. B. Riddle, 1872-73; Isaac M. Sowers, 1874-75; James T. Muckey, 1876-78; I. H. Davison, 1879-81; W. C. Cross, 1882-84; I. H. Davison, 1885-87; Charles E. Shoup, 1888-1890; Fred M. Allison, 1891-93; Miles Paden, 1894-96; Thomas H. Nicholson, 1897-99; J. H. Borland, 1900-1902; John R. Steele, 1903-05; T. Frank Algeo, 1906-08; E. A. Wilson, 1909-10; F. H. Williams, 1911-15; John N. Mark, 1916, to the present.

#### COUNTY AUDITORS

Three auditors are elected triennially. Before 1790, the accounts were submitted to the grand jury. On March 30, 1791, an act was passed providing for the appointment of auditors annually by the County court. On March 6, 1809, the office was made elective, but any vacancies would be filled by the court of Quarter Sessions. On the 7th of February, 1814, the term of office was extended to three

years; the person receiving the highest number of votes was to serve the maximum period; the one receiving the next highest number, two years; and the next highest, one year, and one member was to be elected annually thereafter. This continued till the adoption of the constitution of 1873. Patrick Jack is the only known member of the board of 1806; Samuel Dale, Joseph Allen and John Snow were appointed for 1807; Alexander McDowell, John Andrews and Elial Farr, for 1808; Isaac Connely, William Moore and Alexander McCalmont were elected in 1809; Alexander McCalmont, John McClaran and John Hamilton, 1810; Isaac Connely, John McClaran and John Hamilton, 1811; Robert Mitchell, John Broadfoot and Samuel Dale, 1812; John Broadfoot, Andrew Bowman and Charles Holeman, 1813. In 1814 Charles Holeman was elected for three years, and served from January, 1815, to January, 1818; William Crawford was elected for two years and served from January, 1815, to January, 1817; Ninian Irwin was elected for one year and served from January, 1815, to January, 1816. John Gordon served from January, 1816, to January, 1819; Ninian Irwin from January, 1817, to January, 1820; Thomas Baird, from January, 1818, to January, 1821; George McClelland, January, 1819, to January, 1821; William Neill, January, 1820, to January, 1823; James Martin, January, 1821, to January, 1824; Ninian Irwin, January, 1821, to January, 1822; Alexander Holeman, January, 1822, to January, 1825; John Martin Jr., January, 1823, to January, 1826; James Mason, 1824, to January, 1827; James Hulings, January, 1825, to January, 1828; James Hamilton, January, 1826, to 1829; William Crary, January, 1827, to 1830; John Little, January, 1828, to 1831; Thomas Baird, January, 1829, to 1832; Samuel Huston, January, 1830, to 1831; Robert J. Neill, January, 1831, to 1833; Hugh Henry, January, 1831, to 1834; Alexander Holeman, January, 1832, to 1835; Alexander McDowell, January, 1833, to 1836; John Coulter, January, 1834, to 1837; Robert Mitchell, January, 1835, to 1838; William Parker, January, 1836, to 1839; Daniel Delo, January, 1837, to 1840; William Neill, January, 1838, to 1841; Patrick Culbertson, January, 1839, to 1842; James Duffield, January, 1840, to 1843; Isaac Griffin, January, 1841, to 1844; Robert Dixon, January, 1842, to 1845; Charles H. Heydrick, January, 1843, to 1846; William Frazier, January, 1844, to 1847; Jacob G. Keefer, January, 1845, to 1848; Phillip Ghost, January, 1846, to 1849; John G. Bradley, January, 1847, to 1850; William Allison, January, 1848, to

1851; Alexander Culbertson, January, 1849, to 1852; J. P. Gilliland, January, 1850, to 1852; George W. Parker, January, 1851, to 1853; R. H. McFate, January, 1852, to 1854; Robert J. Neill, January, 1852, to 1855; D. D. Dickey, January, 1854, to 1856; Samuel McAlevy, January, 1855, to 1858; John Hetzler, January, 1856, to 1859; John Guist, January, 1857, to 1860; William Foster, January, 1858, to 1861; J. A. Dreibelbiss, January, 1859, to 1862; William M. Richardson, January, 1860, to 1863; Samuel Foster, January, 1861, to 1864; I. R. Stranford, January, 1862, to 1865; Thomas Singleton, January, 1863, to 1866; Daniel Persing, January, 1864, to 1867; P. L. Pryor, January, 1865, to 1868; A. Bowman, January, 1866, to 1869; Philo Williams, January, 1867, to 1870; James H. McCombs, January, 1868, to 1871; James Lee, January, 1869, to 1872; Alonzo Poor, January, 1870, to 1873; John Glass, January, 1871, to 1874; William K. Gilliland, January, 1872, to 1875; William H. Hughes, January, 1873, to 1876; I. B. Myers, January, 1874, to 1876; John Ricketts, January, 1875, to 1876; W. H. Webber, Henry Clulow, January, 1876, to 1879; John Kean, January, 1876, to 1878; W. M. Epley, January, 1878, to 1879; J. D. Zeigler, E. Hughes, A. Gilmer, January, 1879, to 1882; George Chambers, January, 1882, to 1885; Henry D. Culp, Daniel Shaner, January, 1882, to 1884; William K. Gilliland, January, 1884, to 1888; C. W. Shaner, January, 1884, to 1885; John A. Robinson, E. A. Hughes, January, 1885, to 1888; A. S. Mawhinney, Homer McClintock, L. J. Bowen, January, 1888, to 1890; L. J. Bowen, George Ellis, W. J. Ritchie, 1891-93; John H. Crawford, John C. Davison, George Ellis, 1894-96; Samuel G. Robbins, Thomas H. Ritchey, George O. Ellis, 1896-99; Thomas E. Ritchey, J. R. Elliott, Charles L. Martin, 1900-02; S. Boyd Baker, George O. Stiles, W. J. Pringle, 1903-05; S. Boyd Baker, Robert Reed, J. D. Grove, 1906-08; J. C. Davison, P. H. Culbertson, May M. Hastings, 1909-11; J. H. Bell, John C. Davidson, Grover Brown, 1912-15; J. C. Davidson, Joseph H. Bell, F. M. Keen, 1916-19—the present board.

#### SHERIFFS

John Witherup took the oath of office as sheriff Dec. 4, 1805; Samuel Hays, Nov. 24, 1808; Alexander McCalmont, Dec. 21, 1811; John Hamilton, Nov. 12, 1814; Andrew Bowman, Nov. 28, 1817; Samuel Hays, Nov. 8, 1820; Arnold Plumer, Nov. 24, 1823; Arthur Robison, Dec. 2, 1826; Samuel Hays, Novem-

ber, 1829; Andrew McCaslin, Nov. 30, 1832; Samuel Hays, December, 1835; John Evans, Nov. 6, 1838; John W. Shugert, Nov. 25, 1841; Samuel Phipps, Nov. 26, 1844; John A. Dale, Nov. 26, 1847; John Adams, Nov. 29, 1850; Thomas H. Martin, Dec. 3, 1853; Putnam McKissick, Nov. 29, 1856; Samuel McAlevy, Dec. 2, 1859; Samuel A. Thomas, Nov. 29, 1862; P. R. Gray, Nov. 2, 1865; Henry H. Herpst, Nov. 27, 1868; Cyrus S. Marks, Dec. 4, 1871; L. T. Lamberton, Jan. 4, 1875; C. M. Hoover, Jan. 7, 1878; Cyrus S. Marks, Jan. 3, 1881; J. S. Shearer, Jan. 7, 1884; William R. Crawford, Jan. 3, 1887; L. L. Ray, January, 1890; Charles W. Shaner, January, 1893; B. T. Gault, January, 1896; Jno. S. Runninger, January, 1899; Charles W. Shaner, January, 1902; James McElhaney, January, 1905; Frank H. Williams, January, 1908; Charles C. Homan, January, 1912; James C. Harrah, January, 1916, present incumbent to 1920.

#### CORONERS

Marcus Hulings, Dec. 4, 1805; John McDonald, Nov. 23, 1808; Charles Ridgway, December, 1811; George Power, Nov. 12, 1814; Samuel Hulings, Nov. 28, 1817; Robert McCalmont, Nov. 9, 1820; Abraham Clark, Nov. 9, 1824; Thomas McDowell, Nov. 14, 1826; James Foster, November, 1829; William Parker, Feb. 16, 1833; Charles L. Cochran, December, 1835; Aaron McKissick, November, 1838; Armstrong Duffield, Dec. 7, 1841; Nathaniel D. Snowden, 1844; James A. Donaldson, November, 1847; Robert Crawford, April, 1850; Charles W. Mackey, Jan. 9, 1853; J. W. Riddle, July 15, 1857; William F. Hunter, Jan. 3, 1861; E. C. Westlake, Dec. 22, 1865; Thomas B. Larue, November, 1868; Joseph Hooton, 1872; S. Gustine Snowden, Jan. 7, 1874; A. W. Cox, Jan. 17, 1877; E. W. Moore, January, 1886; J. B. Reynolds, Jan. 7, 1889; J. M. Snowden, January, 1892, re-elected, 1895; D. C. Galbraith, January, 1899; C. M. Wilson, 1902; Harry S. Stone, 1905; M. L. Battles, 1908; Albert McElroy, 1910; Albert McElroy, 1913; J. W. Osenider, 1917, the present official.

#### COUNTY SURVEYORS

These were called deputy surveyors, and were appointed by the governor till 1850, when the office received its present name. Samuel Dale was the first deputy surveyor, and came to Franklin in 1800. Alexander McCalmont was his successor, May 1, 1812. The follow-

ing served subsequently: William Connelly, Feb. 2, 1817; John Irwin, May, 1818; Richard Irwin, July 7, 1824; Thomas Hamilton, 1839; William Connely, July 4, 1840; Charles H. Heydrick, Feb. 10, 1845; Matthew Riddle, Feb. 27, 1851; Charles H. Heydrick, Nov. 24, 1853; William Hilands, 1862; George M. Bowman, Dec. 16, 1868; William Hilands, 1871 to 1895; Thomas L. Kennerdell, 1896; H. J. McKinly, 1899, re-elected 1902, 1905; Homer B. Melat, 1908, re-elected, 1912, 1916, now serving.

#### DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

From 1800 to 1850 these officers were appointed by the attorney general of the State, and were called deputy attorney general. In 1850 the office was made elective and received its present name. Matthew Riddle was elected in 1850; Thomas Allison, 1853 and 1856; Charles E. Taylor, 1859, resigned in 1861; C. W. Gilfillan, appointed in 1861 and elected in 1862; Samuel B. Myers, elected in 1865 and 1868; James H. Smith, 1871; W. H. James, 1874; William Francis, 1876; Thomas McGough, 1879, 1882, and 1885; F. L. Keehle, 1888; Peter M. Speer, 1891; A. R. Osmer, 1894, 1897; John L. McBride, 1900, 1903; Daniel B. Goodwin, 1906, 1909; Lee A. McCracken, 1912, 1917, now serving.

#### JURY COMMISSIONERS

This office was created and made elective in 1867. Two persons are chosen triennially. Representation is secured to the two leading parties by allowing the voters to cast a ballot for only one candidate. Robert Moffett and John P. McKinley, chosen 1867; Samuel McAlevy, Davidson McElephatrick, 1870; Walter Braden, James E. Muse, 1873; F. J. Nolen, Harvey Evans, 1876; William Hasson, J. R. Neely, 1879; John Mason, A. J. Keenan, 1882; James Dille, John Willings, 1885; George E. McIntyre, W. C. Davidson, 1888; Thomas Bailey, John Mason, 1891; James McCracken, C. C. Kean, 1894; William Hastings, David Mather, 1897; David Hoover, William M. Vincent, 1900; R. D. Reynolds, W. P. Strawbridge, 1903; J. M. Nickle, W. P. Strawbridge, 1906; J. M. Nickle, J. S. Wright, 1909; Clyde First, D. H. Foster, 1913; A. W. Shorts, Clyde W. First, 1917, the present officials.

#### SOME EARLY TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Civil government, even what the settlers thought it, as the security of equal rights to all,

was the substance of things hoped for, for years, unseen. Venango, unnamed for thirteen years after the log fort on French creek had been garrisoned, and for ten years after settlement had begun, was a wilderness county containing thirteen hundred square miles of territory, without roads or bridges or white people. The land was cut by the streams into glens, gulfs, and wide, deep valleys, populous with beasts and savages. The boundaries of the new county were unknown except on the side just entered—on all other sides were the forests. The sources of justice, or of any administration of civil law, were far away—out of reach. One township, Irwin, belonging to Allegheny county, was known to have a justice of the peace appointed by the governor in 1794; in other parts of the region differences were adjusted by the "gage of battle." Under such conditions, the men who were selected to embody the ideals of the settlers were of more than neighborhood or of county importance. They, and their kind elsewhere, were builders of a nation. The records give the names of some of these men.

*Justices*.—Irwin, in Allegheny county, Alexander McDowell, May 11, 1796; the same, Irwin, in Venango county, Abraham Selders, May 17, 1801; Patrick Jack, July 4, 1806; Allegheny township, Joel Green, Jan. 1, 1808; Cherry Tree and Plum, Elial Farr, Oct. 24, 1807; Richland, James Allison, Oct. 24, 1807; Scrubgrass, John Witherup, Nov. 5, 1808; Sugar Creek, Andrew Bowman, 1812; Sandy Creek, William Whann, Feb. 24, 1812.

#### 1801

*Allegheny*.—Constable, Median Garwood; supervisors, John McCombs, Samuel Patterson; overseers of the poor, Peter Titus, James Tuthill.

*Irwin*.—Constable, Richard Sutton; supervisors, Edward Hale, William Hays; overseers, George Power, Marcus Hulings; fence viewers, James Martin, Sr., James Beaumont.

#### 1802

*Allegheny*.—Constable, John Rain; supervisors, James Miller, Samuel Patterson; overseers, Benjamin Huff, Eli Holeman.

*Irwin*.—Constable, Thomas Carter; supervisors, John Martin, William Logan; overseers, Patrick Davidson, Brice Gilmore; appraisers of damages, James Martin, John McClaran.

*Sugar Creek*.—Constable, John Sherman; supervisors, James Tuttle, Robert Elliott;

overseers, Thomas Hamilton, John Rodgers; appraisers, Henry Preston, Samuel Plumer.

#### 1803

*Allegheny*.—Constable, Moses Hicks; supervisors; Samuel Patterson, Samuel Rhoads; overseers, John Ryan, John Anderson.

*Irwin*.—Constable, Richard Sutton; supervisors, John Witherup, Patrick Davidson; overseers, John McClaran, James Martin.

*Sugar Creek*.—Constable, John Whitman; supervisors, William Crouse, John Stiver; overseers, Hugh Johnston, Thomas Hamilton; appraisers, George Sutley, Hugh Hamilton.

#### 1804

*Allegheny*.—Constable, Andrew Fleming; supervisors, Samuel Rhoads, Moses Hicks, Jr.

*Irwin*.—Constable, Richard Sutton; supervisors, John Witherup, John Vincile; overseers, James Martin, John McClaran; appraisers, John McQuiston, George King.

*Sugar Creek*.—Constable, Elial Farr; supervisors, James Hamilton, Robert Beatty; overseers, John Todd, George Sutley; appraisers, Robert Curry, Hugh Johnston.

#### 1805

*Allegheny*.—Constable, Thomas Boyd; supervisors, James McCasland, John Henry; overseers, Benjamin Huff, Eli Holeman; appraisers, David Kinnear, Alexander Thompson.

*Irwin*.—Constable, Adam Dinsmore; supervisors, John Ray, Edward Hale.

*Sugar Creek*.—Constable, Richard Sutton; supervisors, Robert Beatty, Ninian Irwin.

#### 1806

*Allegheny*.—Constable, Samuel Rhoads; supervisors, John Henry, Benjamin Huff; overseer, James Irwin.

*Irwin*.—Constable, Adam Dinsmore; supervisors, Samuel Hays, James Scott; overseer, James Martin.

*Sugar Creek*.—Constable, John Stiver; supervisors, Robert Shaw, Samuel Irwin; overseer, Patrick Davidson.

#### Constables

#### 1807

*Irwin*, Jonathan Murray; *Scrubgrass*, Matthew Riddle; *Frenck Creek*, James Nicholson;

*Cherrytree*, Henry Kinnear; *Allegheny*, Patrick McCrea; *Richland*, Henry Best.

1808

*Irwin*, Jonathan Morris; *Scrubgrass*, Samuel Doty; *French Creek*, William Irwin; *Allegheny*, John Watson; *Sugar Creek*, Francis Halyday; *Cherrytree*, James Hamilton; *Richland*, Jacob Harrold.

1809

*Irwin*, Jonathan Morris; *Scrubgrass*, James Graham; *French Creek*, James Martin; *Sugar Creek*, Francis Halyday; *Cherrytree*, George Farr; *Allegheny*, Thomas H. Prather; *Richland*, Alexander Ritchee.

1810

*Allegheny*, James Dawson, Sr.; *Cherrytree*, Samuel Proper; *French Creek*, James Adams; *Irwin*, Thomas Baird; *Richland*, William Downing; *Scrubgrass*, James Craig; *Sugar Creek*, Francis Halyday.

1811

*Allegheny*, James Allender; *Cherrytree*, Samuel Proper; *Irwin*, John McClaran; *Scrubgrass*, John Phipps; *Sugar Creek*, James McCune; *Richland*, Henry Neely.

1812

*Allegheny*, James Alexander; *Cherrytree*, William Pastores; *French Creek*, John Gordon; *Irwin*, Craft Ghost; *Richland*, Nathan Phipps; *Scrubgrass*, Thomas Jones; *Sugar Creek*, Alexander Johnston.

1814

*Allegheny*, James Lamb; *Cherrytree*, John Lamberton; *Irwin*, Isaac Robison; *French Creek*, John Atkinson; *Richland*, Jacob Keefer; *Scrubgrass*, David Say; *Sugar Creek*, Hamilton McClintock.

1815

*Allegheny*, William Neill; *Cherrytree*, Benjamin August; *French Creek*, Charles Ridgway; *Irwin*, James McMurdy; *Richland*, Adam Sheerer; *Scrubgrass*, Robert Calvert; *Sugar Creek*, James Gordon.

1817

*Allegheny*, William Broadfoot; *Cherrytree*, Francis Hamilton; *French Creek*, John Ridgway; *Irwin*, Patrick Davidson; *Scrubgrass*, James Leslie; *Sugar Creek*, Francis McClintock.

1818

*Allegheny*, William Neill; *Cherrytree*, William McGinnis; *French Creek*, William Dewoody; *Irwin*, Stephen Sutton; *Plum*, Patrick Gordon; *Richland*, Henry Schwabb; *Rockland*, John Jolly; *Scrubgrass*, James Leslie; *Sugar Creek*, Henry Herring.

1819

*Allegheny*.—Constable, William Neill.  
*Cherrytree*.—Constable, William McGinnis.  
*French Creek*.—Constable, John P. Houser; auditors, John Broadfoot, James Martin, James Gilliland, John Hamilton; supervisors, Armstrong Duffield, Jonah Reynolds; fence viewers, Robert Kinnear, Samuel Lindsay; overseers, James Adams, John Dewoody.

*Irwin*.—Constable, William Davidson.

*Plum*.—Constable, Patrick Gordon; auditors, John Fetterman, John Daugherty, Robert Bradley, James Gordon; supervisors, John Bradley, Jacob Grove; overseers, John Bradley, Jacob Grove; fence viewers, George Franks, Robert Longwell.

*Richland*.—Constable, James Ritchee.

*Scrubgrass*.—Constable, James Leslie.

*Sugar Creek*.—Constable, Henry Herring; auditors, John Kelly, John Mason, Isaac Walls, Peter Dempsey; supervisors, Francis Carter, Luther Thomas; overseers, William Hays, John Wilson.

1820

*Allegheny*.—Constable, William Neill.  
*Cherrytree*.—Constable, David Farrell; auditors, John Gordon, G. McClelland, John Hamilton, James Martin; supervisors, R. Hamilton, Robert Curry; overseers, R. Hamilton, Robert Curry; appraisers, M. Stockbarger, Isaac McMurdy.

*French Creek*.—Constable, John Dewoody; auditors, Robert Mitchell, John McClaran, William Davidson, Adam Dinsmore; supervisors, A. Duffield, I. Reynolds; overseers, Andrew Bowman, Isaac Smith; appraisers, Jacob Switzer, I. Addleberger.

*Irwin.*—Constable, John Henderson; auditors, James Ritchey, G. Richardson, Thomas Thompson, Barnhart Martin; supervisors, Alexander Porter, Joseph Allen; overseers, Patrick Davidson, John Hoffman; appraisers, G. Snyder, John Shannon.

*Plum.*—Constable, I. Proper; auditors, John Mason, John Whitman; supervisors, John Carter, John Daugherty; overseers, John Carter, John Daugherty.

*Richland.*—Constable, R. Armstrong; auditors, John Shannon, John McDonald, John Parker, David Smith; supervisors, C. Hummel, Henry Neely; overseers, Henry Neely, Peter Kister; appraisers, Samuel Small, Lewis Herring.

*Rockland.*—Constable, John Porterfield; auditors, John Fetterman, William Cooper, Daniel Proper, Daniel Herring; supervisors, James Moorhead, John Watt; overseers, D. Smith, John Evans; appraisers, James Foster, James Shaw.

*Scrubgrass.*—Constable, William Sloan; auditors, Thomas Jones, Thomas Kerr, James Pollock, William Dickson; supervisors, James Craig, Samuel Eakin; overseers, John Phipps, William Crawford.

*Sugar Creek.*—Constable, Christian Sutley; auditors, Peter Dempsey, John Keely; supervisors, Francis Carter, John Duffield; overseers, Thomas Carter, I. McFadden.

#### 1824

*Allegheny.*—Constable, O. Copeland; supervisors, G. Siggins, William Mauross.

*Cherrytree.*—Constable, Samuel Irwin; auditors, James Dawson, A. Holeman, W. Broadfoot, S. Fleming; supervisors, B. Griffin, Isaac Archer; overseers, James Miller, Andrew Fleming.

*French Creek.*—Constable, Robert Henry; clerk, F. G. Crary; auditors, James Kinnear, Hugh McClelland, A. Duffield, J. Gilliland; supervisors, Aaron McKissick, William Duffield; overseers, J. Gilliland, John Martin; appraisers, A. Dewoody, James Bennett.

*Irwin.*—Constable, William Davidson; clerk, John McClaran; auditors, R. Mitchell, J. Matthews, John McClaran, Craft Ghost; supervisors, Adam Huey, James McClaran; appraisers, Joseph Osborn, J. Porter.

*Plum.*—Constable, John Daugherty; clerk, J. G. Bradley; auditors, E. McFadden, Francis Carter, John McCurdy, J. Whitman.

*Richland.*—Constable, James Platt; auditors, Samuel Stewart, James Watson, John L. Porter, John Cochran; supervisors, James Ritchey,

James McGinnis; overseers, A. Porter, Samuel Stewart; appraisers, I. Downey, John Russell.

*Rockland.*—Constable, Joseph Campbell; supervisors, Daniel Smith, John Prior; overseers, John Sloan, Joseph Ross.

*Scrubgrass.*—Constable, Marvin Perry; clerk, Thomas P. Kerr; auditors, John Witherup, James Scott, John D. Wood, Thomas Kerr; supervisors, Samuel Eakin, Reuben Irwin; overseers, L. Sloan, William Eakin; appraisers, John Phipps, Jonathan Kerr.

*Sugar Creek.*—Constable, Alexander Bowman; clerk, William Cousins; auditors, E. McFadden, Francis Carter, John McCurdy, J. Whitman; supervisors, William Whitman, William Hays; overseers, I. McCalmont, A. Selders; appraisers, M. Sutley, John McFadden.

#### 1826

*Allegheny.*—Constable, James Ricketts; clerk, A. West; auditors, Thomas Anderson, A. Benedict, J. Walliston, James Dawson; supervisors, John Griffin, William Haworth; overseers, A. Fleming, William Neill.

*Cherrytree.*—Constable, Elijah Stewart; clerk, J. Hamilton; auditors, T. Hamilton, James Morrison, J. Breed, James Irwin; supervisors, Reuben Irwin, William Perry; overseers, J. Strawbridge, Hugh Hamilton; fence viewers, James Alcorn, Thomas Neill.

*French Creek.*—Constable, James Hanna; clerk, William Crary; auditors, James Gilliland, John Little, Thomas McDowell, Levi Dodd; supervisors, Isaac Smith, William Duffield; overseers, William Connely, Samuel Hays; fence viewers, A. Dewoody, James Bennett.

*Irwin.*—Constable, Philip Surrena.

*Pine Grove.*—Constable, Samuel Powell; supervisors, D. Reynolds, George Kapp.

*Plum.*—Constable, Lewis Herring; clerk, James Foster; auditors, John Cooper, E. Sweeny, John Fetterman, James Gordon; supervisors, John Lamberton, Lewis Herring; fence viewers, John Lamberton, Lewis Herring.

*Richland.*—Constable, D. Rumberger; clerk, W. A. Stroble; auditors, L. Houston, James Houston, J. Ashbaugh, James Platt; supervisors, John Bell, Jacob Ashbaugh; overseers, H. Neely, James McGinnis; fence viewers, J. Shaffer, J. Ashbaugh.

*Rockland.*—Constable, David Smith; clerk, J. Smith; auditors, Jacob Young, Andrew Maitland, William Craig, John Jolly; super-

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visors, John Ford, William Ross; overseers, John Stroup, Jacob Miller.

*Scrubgrass*.—Constable, Thomas Kerr; clerk, John Anderson; auditors, James Scott, M. Perry, James Anderson, John Anderson; supervisors, R. Irwin, William Perry; overseers, J. D. Wood, John Coulter; fence viewers, John Witherup, William Crawford.

*Sugar Creek*.—Constable, Jacob Luper; clerk, James Linn; auditors, John McCalmont, L. McFadden, Francis Carter, William Carter; supervisors, Alexander Bowman, Joel Sage; overseers, James Haslet, James McCune; fence viewers, R. McCalmont, T. Wilson.

1828

*Allegheny*.—Constable, T. Morrison; supervisors, William Neill, H. Morrison.

*Cherrytree*.—Constable, Jacob Grove; clerk, John Hamilton; auditors, E. Fleming, J. Archer, T. Hamilton, J. Irwin; supervisors, A. Robison, William Reynolds; overseers, M. McFadden, J. Archer; fence viewers, E. Stewart, A. S. Hancock.

*French Creek*.—Constable, James Adams; clerk, R. N. Ayres; auditors, James Adams, A. Duffield, D. Brown, William Black; supervisors, James Adams, William Connely; overseers, Aaron McKissick, J. Evans; fence viewers, William Raymond, Andrew Dewoody.

*Irwin*.—Constable, Peter Walter; clerk, R. Mitchell; auditors, John Boner, J. Walter, P. Surrena, R. Mitchell; supervisors, Thomas

Baird, J. McMurdy; overseers, J. McMurdy, H. Stephenson; fence viewers, H. Cochran, J. Vaughan.

*Pine Grove*.—Constable, D. Walter; supervisors, D. Reyner, Samuel Zink.

*Plum*.—Constable, Adam Zener; auditors, Benjamin August, J. G. Bradley, M. Jennings, Samuel Small; supervisors, J. G. Bradley, T. Fetterman.

*Richland*.—Constable, John Donaldson; supervisors, William Kerns, H. Neely; overseers, D. O'Neill, A. Ritchey.

*Rockland*.—Constable, J. C. Evans; auditors, J. Shannon, J. Jolly, H. Reed, Enoch Battin; supervisors, Peter Lovell, John Stroup; overseers, D. Smith, J. Smith; fence viewers, Daniel Smith, J. Moorhead.

*Scrubgrass*.—Constable, J. Phipps; clerk, J. Craig; auditors, J. Craig, M. Perry, William Dickson, T. Kerr; supervisors, S. Eakin, R. Sutton; overseers, D. Wasson, James Leslie; fence viewers, David Say, John Anderson.

*Sugar Creek*.—Constable, John Linn; auditors, John Mason, James Thompson, J. Whitman, Elijah McFadden; supervisors, James Linn, James Haslet; overseers, W. Brown, J. Foster; fence viewers, S. Rhoads, J. Lamber-ton.

The constables and justices of the early days must have had rather strenuous terms. By the election of all these officers, and their faithful service, the county advanced rapidly in the development of organized civil government.

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## CHAPTER X

### POST OFFICES

#### EARLY RATES—FIRST OFFICES IN VENANGO COUNTY—FRANKLIN OFFICE AND POSTMASTERS—OIL CITY OFFICE AND POSTMASTERS—EMLENTON—THIRD CLASS POST OFFICES IN VENANGO COUNTY—FOURTH CLASS POST OFFICES

To picture life in Venango county before the day of post routes requires a certain amount of imagination. But the men of those days would need quite as much fancy to conceive of modern methods of communication. The story of the telegraph, the telephone, the cable and that wireless telegraphy which served as a boy's plaything until taken over by the government would seem to them like the "baseless fabric" of a dream. The picture of the

wonderful network which connects lonely farmhouses in almost inaccessible places with town and city would have made un inventive minds falter in amazement.

The postman coming at intervals of three weeks on the route from Pittsburgh to Erie probably did not busy himself with the problems of wide distribution. He was concerned rather with the safe delivery of the letters and papers intrusted to him. The man him-

self was a picturesque figure, and the sound of his horn was welcome to those who looked for news from friends far away. The curiously folded sheets of paper, dispensing with outer wrappings, were treasures kept tied with ribbons and put away carefully, to be taken out and read over and over. Packages of these have been found sometimes in old houses and they have disclosed the fact that these early settlers kept their friends in lively remembrance and that family affection and friendship had indeed wireless ways of sending thoughts to each other.

#### EARLY SERVICE

The postman who brought the first mail in 1802 soon found that his burdens increased as the settlers gained in numbers and business demanded more correspondence. The newspapers of the outside world were more necessary, and one horse carried the rider and another brought the heavy mail. Storms sometimes served to delay the postman, but faithfulness characterized the men who undertook the service. Mr. Ash carried the mail from Meadville to Franklin, and Mr. Houser that from Franklin to Warren and return. The condition of the country can be best understood when it is noted that most of the news at this early date was carried from town to town by letters. Even important news like the results of elections was conveyed in this slow manner. Public sentiment on all great questions of the day was disseminated thus. Old letters reveal the feeling in regard to these matters. The way in which political movements were heralded may account for the fact that men did not in those days change parties as they sometimes do at present. The slow growth of knowledge made firm foundations for the conclusions drawn, and we find in this county at an early day that a man once identified with a party, no matter how small the following, was true to it in the face of absolute failure to secure office or to assist others to do so. The newspapers were negligible so far as conveying news was concerned. At the close of the Revolution there were only about forty papers, and they did not attempt to give news, seldom getting farther from home than forty or fifty miles.

In 1801 a weekly mail route was established between Pittsburgh and Erie by way of Butler, Franklin, Meadville, and Waterford. Within the next two years it had been reduced to a semi-monthly route, but the first schedule was again adopted soon afterward.

Robert Clark, of Clark's Ferry, established the first stage route over the Susquehanna and Waterford turnpike, presumably the first in the county, in 1820, the first coach arriving at Franklin in November of that year. The first stage line to Pittsburgh was established by Samuel F. Dale.

#### EARLY RATES

The rate of postage was at first six cents for every quarter ounce, for distances under thirty miles; increasing six cents for every addition of thirty miles to the distance; over four hundred and fifty miles the rate was twenty-five cents. Newspapers were for a number of years not admitted to mail except as arrangement was made between the publishers and the mail carriers. Later each publisher could send every other publisher one copy of his paper free of expense.

#### FIRST OFFICES IN VENANGO COUNTY

The first post office in the county was established at Franklin in 1801, and the commission of Alexander McDowell as first postmaster bears date Jan. 1, 1801. The earliest post offices throughout the county were Big Bend, in Scrubgrass township; Rockland, Cranberry, Canal, Plum, Cherrytree, and Cornplanter, in the respective townships of those names; Cooperstown, Pleasantville, Utica, Emlenton, Clintonville, and Dempseytown; Lamb's in Allegheny township, Rynd's, in Cornplanter, and Plumer.

#### FRANKLIN OFFICE AND POSTMASTERS

At Franklin postmasters have served in the following order: Alexander McDowell, appointed Jan. 1, 1801; James G. Heron, Oct. 1, 1802; John Broadfoot, March 31, 1809; William Connely, March 25, 1819; Henry McCalmont, Nov. 17, 1819; Alexander S. Hays, Sept. 15, 1821; Arthur Robison, May 6, 1821; John Evans, Jan. 12, 1822; Samuel F. Plumer, Oct. 10, 1831; Benjamin A. Plumer, May 9, 1832; William Raymond, July 10, 1841; Benjamin A. Plumer, Oct. 29, 1842; Joseph McClelland, Feb. 20, 1843; John H. Shannon, March 7, 1844; Adam Webber, Nov. 8, 1849; Sarah Webber, April 23, 1860; Robert Brigham, March 11, 1865; Robert J. Canan, April 8, 1869; David D. Grant, Feb. 24, 1875; John E. Adams, March 31, 1883; Elmer E. Adams, 1885; D. W. Morgan, 1887; Elmer E. Adams, 1893; E. W. Smith, 1897; D. W. Morgan,

1901; J. R. Dodds, 1910; Robert McCalmont, 1914—present postmaster.

The growth of the mail service may be noted, from the time the lone rider through the Venango forests once in three weeks cheered the waiting postmaster at Franklin by the delivery of a few letters, up to the present day when the official occupying that position needs the aid of many clerks and assistants. From the Franklin post office five rural mail routes now diverge. The office now, instead of being open on rare occasions as it was in the early times, is open day and night except Sundays. It is located in the Trust Company building on Liberty street, the main business thoroughfare of the town. The postmaster, Mr. McCalmont, has the following aids: Assistant postmaster, Charles C. Bailey; money order clerk, Etta Rew; superintendent of mails, Cassius M. Campbell; Clerks, Daisy M. McClintock, Iva A. Shorts, Jennie M. Bowen, George C. Anderson, Guy Kelch, J. Clyde Pryor, Ralph Williams, J. Q. W. Black; letter carriers, city—J. S. St. Clair, Roy L. Lerch, J. E. Lichtenberger, W. H. Elliott, Harry R. Marks, W. W. Mackay, C. J. Nelson. It is probable that this force handles more mail in one day than was distributed during the first twenty-five years of the existence of the office.

#### OIL CITY OFFICE AND POSTMASTERS

The office at Oil City was originally called Cornplanter. It was established in 1840, and A. G. Siverly served as postmaster during the first term. The mail at that time came once each week from Franklin, brought by a horse-back rider. The second postmaster, James Halyday, resigned after serving a year and a half, and Samuel Bell completed the term. By this time a mail stage took the place of the horse, and by the line of the old Warren pike supplied a semi-weekly mail. The next official after Mr. Bell was James Young, whose services extended through one term. Samuel Hopewell also filled the position one term. His successor was Thomas Moran. In about two years Mr. Moran died and his widow succeeded him, keeping the mail in a box, handy for all to examine, until Calvin B. Reynolds took charge in 1860. Before this date the postmaster was not troubled with a large amount of mail, but during his administration the increase was remarkable. Post routes from all directions took their course toward the mouth of Oil creek. The name of the station was changed to Oil City, the accommodations

were greatly enlarged and facilities increased for promptly handling the mail. Fid Bishop succeeded Mr. Reynolds in 1865. He resigned after holding office a year and a half. The yearly salary was \$1,500, but as the rent was nine hundred dollars and he required the help of two clerks he was obliged to quit. He was succeeded by Alexander W. Myers for the remainder of the term. J. W. Howe, the next appointee, retained the position two terms. In 1876 Fid Bishop was again appointed. The office had now become important and was worth while. In 1885 Col. A. J. Greenfield was appointed, serving until 1889. William McKim served from 1889 to 1893; John H. Payne, from 1893 to 1897; W. McKim, from 1897 to 1901; W. H. Longwell, 1901 to 1909; J. N. Perrine, 1909 till 1913; in 1913 E. S. Laughlin, the present postmaster, was appointed.

After several years of earnest effort Oil City succeeded in obtaining a fine Federal building. It is one of the ornaments of the town, its classic simplicity being shown to advantage by the lawn and well kept grounds about it. The main office is on the corner of Seneca and Federal street. Postmaster Laughlin has for assistants Elizabeth Cowell, who is assistant postmaster; T. L. Plant, superintendent of mail; M. R. DeWoody, chief mailing clerk; Leo J. English, register clerk; P. H. Brown, night clerk in charge; clerks, W. F. Borland, Edward J. Lynam, Warren H. Myers, Georgia H. Black, Anna W. Jacobs, Harry Dupont, Earl P. Beckwith, James W. Barrett; carriers, Arthur Cornell, Joseph A. Hanna, Roy V. Lesh, Albert E. Gillett, Charles Wareham, William Dinges, William F. Faller, Arthur E. Bird.

At the South Side post office the superintendent is James L. Robbins; clerk, Hugh A. Duffee; carriers, George Nicholson, Harvey A. Dodds, A. Edward McMullin, Devoe Bassett, Clyde E. Way.

There are five rural delivery routes from Oil City. The parcel post business of the two cities in this county has assumed amazing proportions. It is a service appreciated and enjoyed fully.

#### EMLENTON

The post office at Emlenton is a very important one. Many years ago the town was the center of supply and shipment for a great deal of iron business. In like manner the postoffice, being the most southern in the county upon the railroad, also furnishes postal facilities for a large section of country. It has five rural

delivery routes, and thus reaches well settled and thrifty farming communities. Several of these settlements once had post offices, but they have been given up and their place taken by the rural delivery. The present postmaster is M. J. Flynn. Emlenton is the only second-class post office in the county.

#### THIRD CLASS POST OFFICES IN VENANGO COUNTY

##### *Postmasters*

Pleasantville .....	Thomas McGuire
Polk .....	E. J. Hutchinson
Rouseville .....	A. N. Rose

#### FOURTH CLASS POST OFFICES

Clintonville .....	M. L. McKee
Cooperstown .....	Mrs. Mary L. Boal
Cranberry .....	Laura Stewart
Diamond .....	J. M. Shriver
Eaglerock .....	May Sparks
Fertigs .....	H. S. Schwab
Kennerdell ....	Walter S. Cross, Acting Postmaster
Nickleville .....	Herbert Pearce
Petroleum Center .....	H. Strahl
Pittsville .....	Robert McGinnis
President .....	B. F. Snodgrass
Raymilton .....	W. S. Hogue
Reno .....	H. S. Rhines

Rockland .....	E. D. Felt
Seneca .....	L. C. Moore
Utica .....	Harriet C. Adams
Van .....	Charles Perry
Venus .....	John G. Betz
Wesley .....	C. L. Lee
Walnut Bend .....	Eugene A. Rogers

In a less modern day, when time and space did not count so much, stories might have been told of the wonderful growth, the decline and fall, of many of the post offices of this county. The amount of business done by means of them in the early oil excitement seems almost fabulous now. The steady growth of those of the two cities is typical of all the others. As the population increases the needs become greater, and a government that believes in extending equal privileges supplies the facilities. In short, were our historic postman to come back on his phantom steed he would rival Rip Van Winkle as he looked upon the broad and ever-widening uses to which mail service has been put. It is one of the fascinating stories of real life and real endeavor that is truly American in its energy and efficiency. Nowhere is this shown more clearly than in Venango county.

## CHAPTER XI

### BENCH AND BAR

(By Millard Scheide)

#### EARLY COURT SESSIONS—PIONEER LAWYERS—THE BENCH—PRESIDING JUDGES—DISTRICT COURT —THE BAR—DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS—LIST OF PRESENT MEMBERS

The organization of the county of Venango for judicial purposes was effected by the Act of April 1, 1805, and the first court ever opened within its limits was a general court of Quarter Sessions, which convened in a log house standing on Liberty street, above Twelfth street, in Franklin. This old building remained there until 1863, when it was torn down to be replaced by a more modern but less picturesque structure.

#### EARLY COURT SESSIONS

Court was opened Dec. 16, 1805, with the Hon. Jesse Moore presiding, assisted by John Irwin and Thomas McKee, associate judges, and there were present John Witherup, sheriff, and William Moore, prothonotary, both of

whom participated in the ceremony of organization. There was one impressive feature connected with the opening of court then and for some time afterward, which, as related to a local historian by a legal gentleman whose boyhood days were spent in Franklin, was this: "Before the advent of the courthouse bell it was the duty of the crier to summon the people to the temple of justice by blowing a large tin horn. Armed with this old John Morrison, the crier, would take his position at the courthouse door, and pointing the horn toward Kinnear's tavern, where the judge stopped, would give out such blasts as proved uncontestedly that old as he was his lungs were still in good condition." This Kinnear's tavern, a feature of early Franklin, stood on the corner of the public square or diamond—

in other words at the corner of Liberty and West Park streets. The landlord was a particular tavernkeeper, as may be seen from the fact that he required his guests to be in at nine o'clock at night, and the doors of the tavern were closed so that none could get in after that hour.

The first official business transacted by this tribunal, and the first judicial act in Venango county, was the recommendation to the governor of George McClelland as a suitable person to keep a public house in Irwin township, and the second was the appointment of viewers to examine the route of a proposed road from the town of Franklin to a point adjoining the line of Mercer county, petitioned for by sundry inhabitants. After appointing constables for the townships of Allegheny, Brokenstraw and Sugar Creek, this first court adjourned. The circumstance that a constable was named for Brokenstraw township, which is now a part of Warren county, was due to the fact that that county had not yet been organized. By the act of March 12, 1800, erecting the counties of Venango, Mercer, Erie and Warren, they were temporarily attached to Crawford county, and the courts for all these counties were held at Meadville until their separate and distinct judicial organization.

The second session was held on Monday, March 17, 1806, at which time, after the transaction of necessary preliminaries, the sheriff "returned the precept to him directed by which it appears that the following persons were summoned and returned to inquire for the Commonwealth and for the body of Venango County," naming a grand jury of twenty-four men. At this session and by this grand jury the first indictment in Venango county was returned, it being against one Andrew Miller, a justice of the peace, for "misdemeanor in office," to which charge he pleaded *non cul. et de hoc ponit se super patriam*, which plea the present historian translates "not guilty, and of this he puts himself upon the country"—that is to say, before a jury. To which the deputy attorney general, corresponding to the present district attorney, replied *similiter*, meaning that the Commonwealth also was willing to go before the country. Miller's case was tried at the third or June sessions, 1806, by a jury of his countrymen, "twelve good men, who being duly ballotted for, elected, and sworn, on their oaths respectfully do say they find the defendant guilty in manner and form as he stands indicted." This was the first jury trial in Venango county, but it is to be greatly regretted that, owing to the carelessness of those

responsible for the custody of the early records of this county, the dockets and minute book have been abstracted or destroyed; therefore, the historian is obliged to confess his inability to find out what is meant by that first jury having been "duly ballotted for and elected," a quaint phraseology which appears to be confined to this county.

#### PIONEER LAWYERS

Rude as were the pioneer times in many respects, yet the bar of that day contained many men of eloquence and learning, whose classical knowledge was by no means confined to the Latin pleadings universally employed at that time. They seem also to have been distinguished by a camaraderie incident to the necessities of their practice, for the thinly settled state of the country obliged them to carry their business into several counties. Therefore a number of lawyers would travel on horseback from one county seat to another, having at each an appointed stopping place where they were always expected, and it has been related by an old-timer that at these places the chickens, corn-dodgers, maple sugar and old whiskey suffered, while the best story tellers regaled the company with their inexhaustible fund of wit and anecdote. Nor was the field of the practical joke entirely uncultivated. It has been narrated that two convivial gentlemen of the bar having been induced to retire to their joint chamber, their professional brethren rigged up some contrivance by means of which their bed was hoisted up near the ceiling. Presently one of them, undertaking to get up, fell into what he conceived to be a deep pit, whence his cries awakened his bedfellow, the latter, emerging from his own side of the bed, straightway fell into another deep pit, and the two victims lay on the floor shouting to one another from their respective cellars until the morning light revealed the true state of affairs.

Among the most prominent of the pioneer lawyers who practiced here during the early years of the county's history were the following named: David Irvine, David LeFever, John Galbraith, Alexander McCalmont, John J. Pearson, James Thompson, John W. Howe, James Ross Snowden, Samuel Porter Johnson, Thomas Espy, William Stewart, Jonathan Avres and James S. Myers, of Franklin; John W. Hunter, Alexander W. Foster, John B. Wallace, Edward Work, Ralph Marlin, J. Stuart Riddle, George Selden, Richard Bean, Patrick Farrelly, Henry Baldwin, Gaylord





*Venango County Court Room  
(View from Rear)*



*Venango County Court Room  
(View from Front)*

Church and David Derrickson, of Meadville; Samuel B. Foster and John Banks, of Mercer; Gen. William Ayres, Charles Sullivan, George W. Smith and Judge John Bredin, of Butler, and James Ross and Thomas Collins, of Pittsburgh.

#### THE BENCH—PRESIDING JUDGES

As has already been stated, Venango county was for the five years prior to 1805 attached to Crawford county for judicial purposes, with the seat of justice at Meadville. The first presiding judge of the district was ALEXANDER ADDISON, a Scotchman by birth, who began the practice of law at Washington, Pa. As president of the courts of Common Pleas of the Fifth circuit he delivered a series of twenty-seven remarkable charges to grand juries which elicited a letter of commendation from George Washington, dated at Mount Vernon March 4, 1799. These charges are printed in the back part of Addison's Reports, and are as readable and applicable to good citizenship to-day as when they were pronounced, and this is especially true of the one entitled "A Defence of the Alien Act," made at December sessions, 1798, which reads indeed as though written for the year of Our Lord 1918, as witness these brief excerpts:

"In circumstances of extraordinary danger or alarm extraordinary measures must be adopted, for ordinary means are incompetent for extraordinary occasions. Though I may not kill a man while I am in no danger from him, yet if he be in the act to kill me or I find him breaking into my house in the nighttime to rob me, I may put him to death. This results from the general law of self-defence. \* \* \* Nor will the right of personal liberty restrain a magistrate from committing to gaol a man who has not actually done mischief, if another is justly afraid of mischief being done by him. All these are extraordinary cases to which the ordinary rules of property or of personal liberty and safety are not applicable, and the violation of these rules in such cases is, in true construction, no violation of them, for they were never meant to be applied to such cases, but only to the ordinary and peaceful state of society and must yield to the great law of self-preservation and common welfare."

"Nations, like individuals, are also bound by the law of self-preservation, in times of danger, to adopt measures which would be altogether unjustifiable in ordinary times. \* \* \* Congress, in its last session, found

the United States in extraordinary circumstances of peril, unequaled since their independence was solemnly acknowledged.

\* \* \* France had long known and promoted divisions and factions among us, and had sent spies into all parts of our country to procure information of our circumstances and opinions; these travelled through America under various pretexts, of curiosity, or philosophy, or of avoiding tyranny or persecution at home. This Talleyrand, who demanded the bribe and loan from our ambassadors, travelled through this country as an emigrant, and after his return to France was appointed minister of foreign affairs. From its spies and other agents here the French government received constant intelligence of the sentiments of the citizens and the measures of the government of America, and was thus prepared to promote its own views and defeat ours. \* \* \*

"Congress, therefore, passed 'An Act concerning Aliens' (25 June, 1798), the substance of which, in its own words, I shall here state:

"It shall be lawful for the president of the United States to order all such aliens as he shall judge dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States, or shall have reasonable grounds to suspect are concerned in any treasonable or secret machinations against the government thereof, to depart out of the territory of the United States, within such time as shall be expressed in such order. \* \* \* And if any alien so ordered to depart shall be found at large within the United States after the time limited in such order for his departure, and not having a license from the president to reside therein; or having obtained such license shall not have conformed thereto; every such alien shall on conviction thereof, be imprisoned and shall never after be admitted to become a citizen of the United States."

The foregoing extracts are enough to show that if the name of another European government be inserted, Judge Addison's charge to that grand jury of 1798 would be precisely applicable to the events of the present year, and they further prove that there is ample precedent for the recent proceedings against active enemy aliens.

It is hard to believe that such a distinguished jurist as Judge Addison should have fallen a victim to partisan prejudice, yet such is the sad fact. He was fearless and impartial in the discharge of his duty, and his bold and conscientious course in supporting the general government during the "Whiskey Insurrection" secured for him many personal enemies, whose

opportunity for revenge came on an occasion when he refused to allow one of the associate judges to charge the jury after his own charge had been delivered. No judicial body would or could have convicted him, and, failing in the courts, his persecutors sought the compliant aid of the legislature. The house ordered his impeachment and the senate convicted him, the sentence being his removal as president judge of the Fifth Judicial district, and perpetual disqualification to any judicial office in the State. This trial, which took place in 1802, resulted in deposing one of the ablest judges that ever sat on the bench in Pennsylvania, and crushed the spirit of an upright and honorable man. He continued, however, to practice in the different courts until his death, which occurred in Pittsburgh in 1807.

JESSE MOORE, who, as we have seen, presided at the first court ever held in Venango county, was the second judge of the district, and was practicing law at Sunbury when appointed in April, 1803. He held the office without interruption until his death, Dec. 21, 1824, and is said to have been well educated, a diligent student and a good lawyer, discreet, upright, and impartial in his judicial opinions and decisions. He probably made the finest appearance on the bench of any of those who ever occupied it in Venango county, for he always retained the dress of the then old-style gentleman, wearing knee breeches, silk stockings, knee buckles as well as shoe buckles, powdered hair, and he was undoubtedly armed with a snuffbox. An old gentleman of Mercer, long since dead, wrote that as a little boy, between 1812 and 1820, he occasionally dropped into the courthouse, and was indelibly impressed with the grand appearance of the president judge. He adds: "I have since seen the Supreme court of the United States in session; their black gowns and the enforced quietness certainly give to it a very august aspect, but still there was lacking the grand old powdered head and queue that gave Judge Moore the advantage in imposing dignity."

The successor of this gentleman was HENRY SHIPPEN, who came to the bench of the district embracing Venango, Crawford, Erie and Mercer counties, in 1825. He was a native of Lancaster county, where he was admitted to the bar, and where most of his practice was acquired, although he was appointed to the bench from Huntingdon county. During the war of 1812 he was captain of a company from Lancaster which numbered as one of its privates James Buchanan, afterward president of the United States. While on the bench he

displayed those legal qualities which distinguish the able lawyer and thorough jurist, his charges and decisions being characterized by learning and uprightness.

The next in order of succession was NATHANIEL B. ELDRED, of Warren county, who presided over the courts of the district from 1839 until 1843, when he resigned the judgeship to accept the post of naval appraiser at Philadelphia. Subsequently he became judge of the Dauphin and Lebanon district. He is remembered as a man of keen intellect, a finished scholar, an able lawyer, a painstaking and impartial public servant. He was a witty and brilliant conversationalist and a capital story teller, but at all times maintained the dignity of his position. His written opinions and charges to juries were models of legal composition, and as a lawyer his versatile talents and thorough reading made him successful in all branches of the profession. An anecdote is related of him in Goodrich's History. In an assault and battery case, tried in Dauphin county, the evidence was that the defendant, whilst walking on the street in Harrisburg with his wife, knocked the prosecutor down for using insulting words to the wife. Judge Eldred charged the jury as follows: "Gentlemen: You have learned from the evidence the character of the offense. The facts are for you. In law any rude, angry or violent touching of the person of another is a battery, and is not justified by any provocation of words only, however insulting they may be. But if I was walking with my wife and a rowdy insulted her, I would knock him down if I was able—swear an officer." The verdict was "not guilty."

GAYLORD CHURCH, who succeeded Judge Eldred, was a native of Oswego, N. Y., but received his education and was admitted to the bar in Mercer county, removing to Meadville in 1834. In 1837 he was appointed deputy attorney general for Crawford county, and in 1843 he was appointed president judge of the Sixth Judicial district, serving as such until 1849, when the district was changed, and Venango became a part of the Eighteenth district. Judge Church possessed a well-balanced, judicial mind, was thoroughly versed in the law, and while not as popular amongst the members of the bar as were some of his successors, was nevertheless a dignified and efficient judge. After the expiration of his official term he practiced in the courts of Crawford, Venango and other counties until Oct. 22, 1858, when he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Supreme bench of the Commonwealth, which he occupied for a short time. He died

in Meadville in 1869, leaving a family, the eldest of whom, Pearson Church, was elected president judge of the Thirtieth Judicial district in 1877, and served on the bench for ten years.

ALEXANDER McCALMONT, one of the pioneer lawyers of Franklin, was born in Mifflin county, Oct. 23, 1785, but his parents were early settlers of Sugar Creek township, removing thither in 1803. Soon afterward Alexander engaged in teaching school and conducted one of the first schools established in Franklin. He subsequently became a prominent merchant and iron manufacturer, and also took an active interest in public affairs, serving successively as sheriff, county commissioner, prothonotary and deputy surveyor. In the meantime he began the study of law in the office of David Irvine, and was admitted to the bar in 1820, engaging in active practice until 1839, when he was appointed president judge of the Eighteenth Judicial district and served on the bench for ten years. Judge McCalmont's district did not include Venango county until shortly before the expiration of his term, when this county was taken from the Sixth and thrown into the Eighteenth district. As a judge he displayed legal qualities which made him popular alike with attorneys and litigants, and against the honor and integrity of his judicial record no word of suspicion has ever been uttered. As a business man, official and lawyer, Judge McCalmont became well and favorably known throughout the counties of northwestern Pennsylvania, and possessed the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. Beginning the practice of the legal profession in middle life, he made amends for the loss of earlier opportunities by close study and application, and in time came to be recognized as one of the substantial lawyers of the Venango bar. He died on Aug. 10, 1857, leaving to survive him four children, of whom two became prominent lawyers, one of them attaining the judicial seat.

JOSEPH BUFFINGTON came to the bench in 1849, and served until 1851, when under the constitution the office became elective. As an attorney and jurist he early took rank with his associates, and as a judge he compared well, both in natural and professional abilities, with his predecessors of the bench. He was a member of Congress for two terms and also served as judge of the Tenth Judicial district.

JOHN C. KNOX was elected judge of the Eighteenth district at the election held in October, 1851, and is remembered as an official who had a faculty for disposing of court busi-

ness with remarkable efficiency and dispatch. He was an excellent Common Pleas judge, arrived at conclusions with but little apparent deliberation, and possessed a quick, discerning intellect which enabled him to solve readily difficult and technical legal points. He was eminently social by nature, and in the discharge of his judicial functions became popular with the members of the bar and all who had business to transact in his court. In May, 1853, he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Supreme bench occasioned by the death of Justice Gibson, and the same year was nominated by his party and elected as his own successor. He served for five years as a justice of the Supreme court, and then resigned to accept the attorney generalship of Pennsylvania, the duties of which office he discharged until 1861, when he was appointed to a post in the department of justice at Washington. Retiring from official life he resumed the practice of his profession at Philadelphia, and it was while engaged in the argument of an important case in one of the courts of that city that he was stricken with a malady from the effects of which he never recovered. He died in the city of Harrisburg.

JOHN S. McCALMONT, second son of Judge Alexander McCalmont, was born in Venango county on April 28, 1822, was educated in the schools of Franklin, and spent two years at Allegheny College. In 1838 he was admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point, from which he graduated July 1, 1842. During his service as an officer of the Third and Eighth regiments of infantry, he employed his intervals of leisure in the study of the law, and, resigning his commission, returned to Franklin, where he was admitted to the bar on the 25th of November, 1844, but shortly thereafter removed to Clarion. In 1845 he was appointed deputy attorney general for Clarion, McKean and Elk counties, an office with duties similar to those of the present district attorneys. In 1849 and 1850 he was a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives; the last year serving as speaker, and in 1852 he was a presidential elector, and as such, with others, cast the vote of Pennsylvania for Franklin Pierce. In 1853 he was appointed to fill the vacancy in the office of president judge of the Eighteenth Judicial district, then composed of the counties of Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, Mercer and Venango, caused by the promotion of Judge Knox to the Supreme bench; and in October of the same year he was elected for the full term.

Upon the outbreak of the Civil war Judge

McCalmont tendered his services to the governor and was by the latter appointed colonel of the Tenth Pennsylvania Reserves, and in June, 1861, resigned his judicial office. When the Reserve Corps was ordered to join the Army of the Potomac he was assigned to the command of the Third Brigade, and was in command at the battle of Drainesville, Va., in December, 1861. His health breaking down in camp during the following winter, he resigned from the army in May, 1862, and subsequently resumed the practice of the law. In 1877 President Hayes appointed him a visitor of the West Point Military Academy, and in 1885 President Cleveland appointed him commissioner of customs, which latter office he resigned upon the incoming of the Harrison administration in 1889. From that time until his death, Dec. 2, 1906, he was engaged in the practice of law in Washington, D. C. It has been said of him by competent authority that "in many respects he was a model judge; he presided with dignity, never losing his temper, never deciding with undue haste only to reverse himself at leisure; he had no favorites at the bar or among suitors, and left the bench with the confidence of the bar and the respect of the community in which the greater part of his life had been spent; and no question is known to have been raised as to his fidelity to duty in any of the various positions which he has occupied during his long life." At the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the organization of the courts of Venango county, held at Franklin in 1905, Judge McCalmont contributed some very interesting historical sketches.

GLENNI W. SCOFIELD was appointed by Governor Curtin to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge McCalmont, and served until the election of his successor the following autumn, refusing the use of his name as a candidate at the election, or he might have been his own successor. He was a resident of Warren and afterward represented his district in Congress, and later served as a judge of the United States court of Claims.

JAMES CAMPBELL, of Clarion county, succeeded Judge Scofield, having been elected on the 11th of October, 1861. He came to the bench fortified with a thorough knowledge of his profession, was a diligent student of legal literature and history, and in point of natural abilities and scholarly attainments ranks with the most gifted of his predecessors.

In 1866 the legislature created a new district out of Venango and Mercer counties, known as the Twenty-eighth, and ISAAC G.

GORDON was appointed by the governor to the judgeship, holding the position until the autumn of that year, at which time his successor was duly elected by the people. Judge Gordon was a resident of Brookville, Jefferson county, and was a lawyer of acknowledged ability. In October, 1873, he was commissioned a justice of the Supreme court, became chief justice July 14, 1887, and retired from the bench in 1888.

JOHN TRUNKEY was elected in October, 1866, to the office of president judge of the new Twenty-eighth Judicial district. Judge Trunkey was of French descent on the paternal side, his ancestor being one of the soldiers who came over with LaFayette to take part in the Revolutionary war. The name was originally Tronquet. He was born Oct. 26, 1828, in Trumbull county, Ohio, but received his legal education in the office of Samuel Griffith, Esq., of Mercer, in this State. At the time of his elevation to the bench business had greatly increased in the courts, growing out of the great impetus given trade by the oil discoveries. The number of cases entered on the appearance docket at the August Term, 1866, was more than ten times greater than the number entered at the corresponding term in 1889, and the business of the criminal courts was correspondingly larger. The result was a huge accumulation of cases awaiting trial when the new judge came upon the bench. An Herculean task was before him, for the statute required that all actions should be reached and have at least a fair opportunity of trial within one year after their inauguration. But the judge girded himself for work, opening the courts at eight o'clock in the morning and sitting until six in the evening, and often holding night sessions. The amount of work performed was, therefore, prodigious. With all this press of business there was no undue haste, and every man who had business with the courts felt that he was fully heard and his cause carefully considered. Such was the confidence of the bar and of the people in both his disposition and ability to mete out exact justice, that but few writs of error were taken to his judgments, and such was the correctness of his rulings in the main that notwithstanding the great number of novel and difficult questions which grew out of the petroleum industries in the earlier years of his service in the Common Pleas, but eight of his judgments were reversed during the eleven years that he sat in that court.

In the autumn of 1877 he was elected to the Supreme bench of the State, and in December

resigned the president judgeship to enter upon the duties of his more exalted position. As a justice of the Supreme court Judge Trunkey manifested the same patient care and industry that had characterized his work in the court below, making himself familiar with the entire case and then thoughtfully and conscientiously preparing the opinions assigned him in good terse English, which will be a monument to his judicial acumen in days to come. But the last two or three years of his labor on the bench were years of suffering and affliction, for an insidious disease was sapping the foundations of life and health. By the advice of his physicians he went abroad for expert medical treatment, but this proved of no avail, and he died in London on the 24th day of June, 1888. The memory of Judge Trunkey is deeply revered by the people of Venango county, for there has never been a name associated with its annals that will go down to posterity with a brighter or purer record.

In December, 1877, CHARLES E. TAYLOR was appointed president judge of the Twenty-eighth Judicial district (which since 1874 has consisted of Venango county alone) to fill the vacancy on the bench caused by the resignation of Judge Trunkey. Mr. Taylor was born in Massachusetts in 1826, and in 1850 he came to Franklin, where he worked at his trade as a painter for several years. But nourishing an ambition to become a lawyer, he spent his evenings in the acquirement of legal knowledge while supporting his family by working at his trade during the daytime. By dint of great and most commendable perseverance he overcame this difficulty, and the further one that his early education was but a partial one, and he was admitted to the bar in 1858. In the autumn of the next year he was elected as district attorney, and was still filling that position when the Civil war began. He recruited a company for the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry and was mustered in as captain of Company I in October, 1861, and served until honorably discharged from the army for physical disability by reason of wounds received at Harrison's Landing. Returning to Franklin, he resumed the practice of law and continued it until appointed to the bench to succeed Judge Trunkey. He was elected the following November, and was re-elected as his own successor in November, 1888, by the largest majority ever given in Venango county. Judge Taylor was unquestionably popular with the mass of voters of Venango county, but certain temperamental infirmities, which increased with age, brought him into collision with some

county officials, and the hostility thus engendered produced such a condition of affairs that on March 1, 1895, he resigned his judicial office and retired to private life. His death occurred on Feb. 19, 1901.

GEORGE S. CRISWELL was appointed to succeed Judge Taylor and has occupied the bench ever since, having been elected in November, 1895, and re-elected in 1905 and again in 1915, the whole constituting a length of service which has never been equaled in the judicial history of this county—evidence of the position enjoyed by this gentleman in the public esteem. Judge Criswell is a native of Venango county and was admitted to its bar Sept. 30, 1875. During his practice he represented the county very acceptably two terms in the State legislature, serving during his last term as chairman of the committee on General Judiciary.

#### DISTRICT COURT

By act of March 23, 1839, a temporary court, limited to five years' duration, was established for the relief of the courts of Common Pleas of Erie, Crawford and Venango counties, afterward extended to Mercer and Warren counties, to be styled the District court of the respective counties, and of this court James Thompson was the first and only judge.

#### THE BAR

In an earlier portion of this chapter there was given a list of the more prominent members of the Venango bar in what has been described as its pioneer days. So great a number of men have practiced at this bar in the more than a century of time during which courts have held their sessions here as to preclude the possibility of mentioning any but those who have attained more than common distinction. Sketches of the lives and professional careers of many others may be found in the court records of commemorative action taken by the bar in consequence of their deaths, and there have been pamphlets and other publications issued from time to time, giving biographical details as to groups or individuals, to all of which reference is invited for fuller information.

It has often been said, and truly, that the fame of a lawyer seldom survives the recollection of his contemporaries. This is because of the attributes which make him eminent in his profession: the thorough preparation of his cases; the knowledge of legal principles and familiarity with the rules of evidence; the

clear, cogent, convincing argument; the magnetism that commands the attention and sways the minds of jurors; all these qualities are expended in their exercise and use; the dry records of the court give no hint of their force and the reminiscences of those who witnessed their display are seldom interesting to a later generation. There are few, indeed, who, like Erskine and Choate, possess these gifts and acquirements in such a remarkable degree as to make their names luminous as barristers long after their voices are silent. It is far more often the case that the lawyer must attain to a seat on the bench, or perform some meritorious public service, or participate in momentous affairs, or be in some other way notable, before his personality can impress itself upon the history of his time, and for one or other of these reasons there have been some of the local lawyers who have escaped oblivion.

#### DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

The name of John W. Hunter stands at the head of the long roll of attorneys practicing in the courts of Venango county since the 16th day of December, 1805. That he was accorded the distinction of being the first lawyer admitted to the bar of this county, and that apparently on the court's own motion, when four others, two of whom had already made their mark, were present waiting to be admitted, and were then admitted upon his motion, seems significant of more than the social qualities that made him a general favorite. All accounts agree that the president judge was an educated lawyer, ceremonious, punctilious, and always jealous of the honor and dignity of the bar, and therefore would not be likely upon such an occasion to give precedence to any but the ablest, the most learned and most worthy of the candidates. Upon the evidence that has survived the century it seems safe to conclude that Mr. Hunter stood deservedly high before his convivial tastes acquired the mastery of him, led him into habits of dissipation, and ended his career after a few years of successful practice.

Alexander W. Foster, the second man admitted to the Venango bar, appears to have had his full share of the practice in this and other western counties, judging from the great number of cases argued by him in the Supreme court of the State, his cases being found in every volume of reports from 3 Yeates to 7 Watts, both inclusive. He had been admitted to the bar of Beaver county in 1804 with several others, including Alexander Addison and

John Bannister Gibson. He had the further distinction of having fought a duel with an army officer, Maj. Roger Alden, the scene of the combat being a point on the bank of French creek one mile east of Meadville. Major Alden fell at the first fire, his leg being shattered below the knee. A canoe served as an ambulance to convey the wounded man to town. Alden was lame from this wound until his death at West Point in 1836.

Ralph Marlin, another of that first class that was admitted Dec. 16, 1805, was a skillful surveyor as well as lawyer and was employed by the Holland Land Company to make a resurvey of their lands north and west of the Ohio, Allegheny and Conewango creek. More than sixty years ago marks of his resurveys were accepted by the old surveyors of that time as evidence of the location of Holland Land Company warrants when marks of original locations could not be found. During the war of 1812 he received the commission of major in the regular army; was a member of the legislature from 1815 until 1818, and returned to his home in the eastern part of the State in 1826.

James G. Heron, admitted June 17, 1806, appears to have been the wealthiest of the early lawyers. He had been an officer in the Revolutionary war, and came to Franklin in 1800 with his family and five servants. His earliest assessment charges him with ten lots, among the most valuable to-day in the city, and a tract of four hundred acres of land in the county, and the inventory of his personal estate filed in the register's office after his death, which occurred Dec. 29, 1809, shows him to have been the owner of two slaves. He does not appear to have had any considerable practice, being one of the associate judges from a date shortly after the organization of the courts until his death.

Henry Baldwin, admitted March 17, 1807, was the only member of the Venango bar to attain the bench of the most powerful court in the world. He was born in New Haven, Conn., Feb. 14, 1780, graduated from Yale College, and in 1830 received from his alma mater the degree of Doctor of Laws. It was a pleasant recollection to him in after years that as a boy he drove a cart for James Hillhouse in planting the famous elms of New Haven. He read law with Alexander J. Dallas, a distinguished lawyer of Philadelphia, and then attorney general, and was admitted in that city. His reason for removing to this part of the State cannot be given, but it is sufficient to say that he "rode the circuit," as the phrase

then ran, over many of the western counties for a number of years, during which he became noted for the extent of his learning and the ability with which he prepared his cases. He was elected to Congress in 1816, and was twice reelected. In 1830 he was appointed by President Andrew Jackson to the Supreme court of the United States to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Justice Bushrod Washington. Lawyers who care to form their own estimate of Baldwin as an appellate judge will find his opinions reported in 3 Peters to 2 Howard, U. S. R. Although his duties at Washington, and as ex-officio president of the Circuit court for Pennsylvania, required his absence the greater part of the time, he made his home at Meadville, where he built a fine villa now or lately owned by Mr. William Reynolds, which, with its ample grounds, has long been one of the ornaments of that city. He died at Philadelphia, April 21, 1844.

Another notable name is that of James Thompson, one of the great lawyers who have given character to the Pennsylvania bar. He was born Oct. 6, 1806, in Butler county, this State. For some reason the date of his admission to the bar can not be ascertained, but there is record evidence that he was practicing law in Venango county as early as 1826, when he could not have been twenty-one years of age, and that his practice rapidly increased thereafter. Twice elected to the legislature, he served during his last term as speaker of the House of Representatives, and was a member of the Twenty-ninth and Thirty-first Congresses. In 1839, as has been mentioned in the section of this chapter dealing with the bench, he was made judge of a temporary court established for the relief of the courts of Common Pleas. In 1842 he removed from Franklin to Erie. After serving two more terms as a member of Congress, he was, in 1857, elected a justice of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania, for the then term of fifteen years, during the last four of which he was Chief Justice. He then returned to the bar, but not for long, for he was stricken by death on Jan. 29, 1872, in the ripeness of years but in the full possession of all his great faculties, and while arguing a cause before the court of which he had been the Chief Justice less than a month before. Some of the leading members of the Philadelphia bar voiced the sentiment of the entire bar of Pennsylvania respecting this great man by their utterances on the morning after his death, which are printed in 72 Pennsylvania State Reports. An anecdote of his practice in Franklin was related

by his son, Col. James Ross Thompson, of Erie, at a bar dinner in Franklin some years ago. One of Judge Thompson's clients at that time was Cornplanter or O'Bail, the chieftain of the Seneca Indians, one of the tribes of the Six Nations, and this old Indian would never speak the English language, but always required the services of an interpreter in his communication with the palefaces. On one occasion he came to Franklin to consult his attorney in regard to some litigation concerning an island in the Allegheny river. The interpreter that he brought with him this time proved to be very unskillful in the use of English, and his muddling finally caused the old chief to indignantly exclaim, "Damn such interpretation, anyway."

James Ross Snowden came of an old Pennsylvania family, was educated at Dickinson College, and subsequently came to Franklin, where he was admitted to the bar in 1830. He was for a time deputy attorney general or district attorney and seems to have acquired a fair share of the practice in the civil courts, but public life had a stronger attraction for him than had the law. In 1842 and 1844 he was speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and in 1845 State treasurer. In 1846 he was appointed treasurer of the United States Mint, and later President Pierce appointed him director of the Mint, which office he held until 1861. During his incumbency of this office he made a study of numismatics and wrote a treatise on the subject which won for him from Washington and Jefferson College the degree of Doctor of Laws. From 1861 until 1873 he was prothonotary of the Supreme court for the Eastern district, and he died in Philadelphia in 1878. He has the distinction of being the champion office-holder of the Venango bar, but there was never a blemish upon his character nor a suspicion of malfeasance in his long official career.

The record for hard work in winning the palm appears to belong to James Stroble Myers. He was of pure German blood, but his father served in the Revolutionary war, being himself of American birth. James was born in Venango county, and at the age of fifteen was "indentured" to Nathaniel Cary of Franklin, "to learn the art and mystery of a tailor." For several years he toiled away as apprentice, as journeyman and as "boss tailor." Having in the meantime married, he then conceived the idea of becoming a lawyer, and with this purpose he set himself to the study of Latin, with the private assistance of Rev. Mr. Snowden, the principal of the Franklin Academy,

so systematizing his time, according to his own statement, as to give eight hours to the tailor shop, eight hours to study and eight to sleep. In 1838 he began the study of the law in the office of James Thompson, afterward Chief Justice, and was admitted to the bar Nov. 22, 1840. As might have been expected from the thoroughness of his preparation and his tremendous capacity for work, he became known as a very good lawyer and was conceded to be one of the leaders of the bar. Mr. Myers died Oct. 20, 1885.

One who, although an able lawyer, was destined to attain his greatest efficiency and reputation as a soldier, was Alfred B. McCalmont, who was born in Franklin April 28, 1825, and was admitted to the bar May 25, 1847. He was the son of Alexander McCalmont and brother of John S. McCalmont, both of whom occupied and adorned the bench of their respective times. He practiced law and engaged in journalism in Pittsburgh, served as prothonotary of the Supreme court for the Western district, and for three years was assistant to Jeremiah S. Black, then attorney general of the United States. In 1862 he recruited a company of volunteers and served in the Army of the Potomac until the end of the Civil war, rising by successive promotions to the rank of colonel of the 208th Pennsylvania. In the assault upon Petersburg he commanded a brigade, and for his gallantry in that action was breveted brigadier general. At the conclusion of the war General McCalmont returned to Franklin and resumed the practice of the law. He died May 7, 1874, survived by his son, Robert McCalmont, Esq., who is himself a member of the bar, but is at present the postmaster of Franklin.

Samuel C. T. Dodd never held public office, judicial or otherwise, his great celebrity being due entirely to his remarkable ability as an office lawyer, which won him not only national but international fame. He was born in Franklin Feb. 20, 1836, and was admitted to the Venango bar at August term, 1859. During the first ten years of his practice he made but slow progress, and the modest and unassuming manner which was his lifelong characteristic caused many people to regard him, in his youth, as unambitious and even indolent. But the great lawyer was only incubating and developing the gifts which were destined to receive recognition in the fullness of time. He first attracted attention by a series of articles appearing in a local newspaper about the time of the passage of the Act of April 11, 1872, providing for a convention to revise or amend

the constitution of Pennsylvania. In these writings he took strong ground in favor of such revision of the organic law as should forever prohibit discrimination by carrying corporations in favor of or against any person or place. In consequence of the publication of these articles Mr. Dodd was elected as a delegate to the authorized convention, but when that body assembled he found that while a majority of its members were in favor of abolishing the evil of discrimination, they were completely at sea as to the remedy that ought to be provided. Added to the ordinary difficulties of such a situation was the presence of certain very able men who were members of the convention in the railway interests, and who, with other arguments, held up that palladium of "vested rights," the Dartmouth College case, so effectively that the forces of constitutional reform began to melt away. It was then that the obscure lawyer from Venango manifested the wonderful acumen that was his, by quietly introducing the provisions that are now found in Article XVII of the present constitution, making salutary regulations for the government of common carriers, forbidding discrimination, and limiting their powers, but all without reference to the untouchable "vested rights." The sting for them, however, lay in Section 10, which runs thus:

No railroad, canal, or other transportation company, in existence at the time of the adoption of this article, shall have the benefit of any future legislation, by general or special laws, except on condition of complete acceptance of all the provisions of this article.

That his foresight was correct has been long amply demonstrated, for since the adoption of the above by the convention and the people, the large carrying companies of the Commonwealth which theretofore in many respects were not subject to legislative control have been compelled by the demands of their increased traffic and business to seek further legislative aid, and, as a requisite, to accept the provisions of Article XVII, thereby placing themselves under the general law and becoming subject to its control.

In 1873 an incident of his practice brought him into contact with the agents of the Standard Oil Company, which led to his employment in the business of that corporation in western Pennsylvania. His ability soon became so manifest to the officials that he was offered and accepted the post of general counsel to the Standard Oil Company, which re-

quired his removal in 1881 to New York. That city was his abiding place for many years, during which his growth as a lawyer was very marked, he directing the legal affairs of the great corporation not only in the United States but in foreign countries as well. But little of this was known to the general public, which, for the most part, was only aware of Mr. Dodd as the author of the famous "Trust Agreement," a remarkable document that was the model of the many similar ones that followed in various lines of business. Mr. Dodd died Jan. 30, 1907, at his winter home in Pinehurst, N. C., and his remains were brought home to his native Franklin and there interred.

It is appropriate that the next distinguished lawyer to be mentioned here should be Christopher Heydrick, for the reason that it is he who had the credit of suggesting to Mr. Dodd the constitutional means by which the corporations with vested rights under legislative charters were brought under the operation of the general law of the State. The original draft of the paper written by him, embodying the substance of what was afterward expressed in Article XVII of the revised constitution, is said to be still in existence. Mr. Heydrick was born in French Creek township, Venango county, on May 19, 1830. After graduating from Allegheny College he removed to Kentucky, where he began the study of the law and after two years was admitted to the bar in that State, but soon thereafter returned to this county and was admitted to the bar in Franklin, where he continued to reside during the remainder of his lifetime. His father, Charles H. Heydrick, was a very able surveyor and served for several terms in the office of county surveyor, being often assisted by his son Christopher, who, under his instruction, acquired great skill in both drafting and field work. In 1857 Mr. Heydrick, in cooperation with Hon. Richard Irwin, made a detailed map of Venango county which became and has continued to be the standard map of this county. The discovery of petroleum in 1859 and its development into a great industry gave scope to Judge Heydrick's abilities and acquirements, which soon came to be appreciated, and his reputation grew until he was rated as far to the front among Pennsylvania lawyers. In 1891 he was appointed by Governor Pattison to fill a vacancy on the bench of the Supreme court, in which he served very acceptably for one year. He was nominated by his party for the full term of twenty-one years, but that party being greatly in the minority in the State, he was defeated at the ensuing election and re-

turned to the practice of his profession, in which he continued until about a year before his death, which occurred Oct. 9, 1914, at the advanced age of eighty-four years.

Of the more recent leaders and fathers of the bar the most prominent have been J. H. Osmer, Isaac Ash and James Denton Hancock, of whom the first two are now deceased, and the last named is the senior living member. Sketches of the lives of Mr. Osmer and Mr. Hancock can be found in the biographical section of this history.

The list of district attorneys appears in the chapter on County Officials.

#### LIST OF PRESENT MEMBERS

To speak in praise of any of the living, however much some of them may deserve such commendation, might not only prove embarrassing to the modesty that should always accompany true worth, but might, also, be unfair to others of perhaps equal merit. We shall confine ourselves, therefore, to the following list of the present members of the Venango bar:

HON. GEORGE S. CRISWELL, *Presiding Judge,*  
Admitted 1875

Name and Address	When Admitted
J. D. Hancock, Franklin	1865
T. J. McKean, Butler	1867
Samuel D. Irwin, Tionesta	1868
Hon. F. W. Hays, Oil City	1870
R. G. Lambertson, Franklin	1871
John A. Wilson, Franklin	1874
H. McSweeney, Oil City	1876
Samuel Grumbine, Titusville	1878
Hon. R. F. Glenn, Franklin	1879
E. H. Lambertson, Erie	1881
J. S. Carmichael, Franklin	1881
Hon. B. H. Osborne, Franklin	1881
Robert McCalmont, Franklin	1881
George A. Chase, Titusville	1883
Hon. W. H. Forbes, Franklin	1883
W. J. Breene, Oil City	1883
Harley W. Fisher, Oil City	1884
S. P. Anderson, Rocky Grove	1884
C. W. Benedict, Titusville	1886
Edward E. Hughes, Franklin	1886
T. F. Ritchie, Tionesta	1887
Millard Scheide, Franklin	1888
W. D. Doyle, Franklin	1889
Hon. J. L. Mattox, Oil City	1889
Hon. P. M. Speer, Oil City	1889
Eugene Mackey, Pittsburgh	1889
William Orr, Rouseville	1890
Archibald R. Osmer, Franklin	1891
A. E. Middleton, Emlenton	1891
Hon. M. L. Phipps, Franklin	1892
Newton F. Osmer, Franklin	1893
William B. Griffen, Franklin	1893
R. N. Speer, Franklin	1893
John L. McBride, Franklin	1895

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Name and Address	When Admitted	Name and Address	When Admitted
William M. Parker, Oil City.....	1895	Hon. Donald Glenn, Franklin.....	1909
Judson D. Trax, Oil City.....	1895	Thomas J. Callanan, Oil City.....	1909
Peter A. Wilbert, Oil City.....	1895	Sydney A. Schwartz, Titusville.....	1909
John M. McGill, Oil City.....	1896	A. B. Jobson, Franklin.....	1909
Hon. D. B. Goodwin, Oil City.....	1898	Clan Crawford, Franklin.....	1909
H. C. Dorworth, Oil City.....	1898	William J. Sirdevan, Titusville.....	1910
Jules A. C. Dubar, Titusville.....	1898	Elisha W. Criswell, Franklin.....	1911
George Frank Brown, Titusville.....	1898	Thomas C. Cochran, Mercer.....	1911
L. J. Roess, Oil City.....	1899	George B. Munn, Warren.....	1911
J. L. Nesbit, Franklin.....	1899	C. M. Shawkey, Warren.....	1911
D. B. McCalmont, Franklin.....	1900	Neil W. McGill, Oil City.....	1910
G. G. Martin, Franklin.....	1901	Harold T. Parker, Oil City.....	1911
E. C. Breene, Oil City.....	1901	John H. McKinney, Franklin.....	1912
Joseph W. Barr, Oil City.....	1902	James R. Gahan, Titusville.....	1913
Q. D. Hastings, Franklin.....	1904	George S. Criswell, Jr., Franklin.....	1914
A. J. Byles, Titusville.....	1906	A. C. Brown, Tionesta.....	1916
Theodore Clulow, Franklin.....	1906	James H. Courtney, Oil City.....	1916
W. F. Moyar, Oil City.....	1906	Daniel J. Skelly, Oil City.....	1917
E. S. McAlevy, Oil City.....	1906	Paul Stuart Speer, Oil City.....	1917
Lee A. McCracken, Oil City.....	1909	Theodore L. Wilson, Clarion.....	1917

## CHAPTER XII

## THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

(By William A. Nicholson, M. D.)

## EARLY PRACTITIONERS—PERSONAL MENTION OF WELL KNOWN PRACTITIONERS—ROSTER OF VENANGO COUNTY PHYSICIANS TO PRESENT TIME—VENANGO COUNTY PHYSICIANS IN MILITARY SERVICE DURING THE WORLD WAR

The history of medical practice in Venango county covers a period of about one and a quarter centuries, taking its inception in the early days of pioneer settlement, when herbalism as practiced by the grandmothers met the needs of ailing flesh, with the rare advent of some transient doctor connected with military or surveying expeditions sent by the government to quell an Indian uprising or map the course of streams or sectional boundaries. On some equally rare occasion a physician was brought from a distant Eastern town, necessitating a hazardous journey by horseback, as the customary manner of travel, often requiring days to accomplish.

## EARLY PRACTITIONERS

The Venango County Medical Society was organized May 8, 1867, at Franklin, under instructions from the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, with the following named officers: President, Dr. Buckland Gillett; vice president, Dr. S. Gustine Snowden; secretary, Dr. Walter S. Welsh; treasurer, Dr. S. S. Porter; censors, Dr. S. G. Snowden, Dr. J. R. Arters, Dr. D. C. Galbraith; state delegate, Dr. Robert Crawford.

From the archives of this institution, and especially from a compilation submitted by Dr. Edwin W. Moore, its secretary for thirty-five years, supplemented from sources and data, some of whose very mustiness admonishes us of passing time, prompting us to record while we may those established and deducible events linked with the personal and professional history of Venango county physicians, we learn: That one Dr. T. G. Symonds, of unrecorded antecedents or subsequent place of continuance, was the first physician to hang out his shingle at Franklin, near the concluding years of the eighteenth century. He was succeeded by Dr. Thomas Smith, of whom it is chronicled, "He was skilled and eccentric."

Dr. Peter Faulkner came to Franklin in 1820, a sturdy foe to disease and untiring in an extended scope of labor; he eventually made his home in Erie, living to an advanced age.

Dr. George R. Espey brought with him to Franklin, in 1820, the enviable distinction of an academic education and professional advancement. Through personal and political popularity he was elected to the State legislature and later was made auditor general under Governor Porter. He later removed to Iowa, and engaged in merchandising.

Dr. Nathaniel D. Snowden, of Harrisburg, located in Emlenton in 1828 and two years later removed to Franklin. Educated, competent, courteous, he endeared himself to his friends and patients.

Dr. J. Bascom located in Franklin in 1831. He was highly recommended through former New York affiliations and left a reputable name as a man and physician.

Dr. William C. Evans, son of Col. John and Rachel (Connelly) Evans, was born at Franklin in 1829. He was a graduate of the Western Reserve Medical College, practiced for a time in Franklin, and afterward made his home at Erie. He married Kate, daughter of Luke Turner. His framed picture now hangs on the walls of the Franklin Masonic temple—he having had the distinction of being the first master of Myrtle Lodge.

In 1834 Dr. B. Gillett removed from Titusville to Franklin, where he continued a successful practice for nearly a half century.

Dr. George W. Connely read medicine with Dr. Gillett and practiced at Franklin several years, when he retired from the profession to engage in the work of commissioners' clerk and prothonotary.

Dr. Walter L. Whann practiced many years at Franklin. In the years 1866-67 he represented the county in the State legislature. At an advanced age he removed to California, where his widow and daughter still reside.

Dr. S. G. Snowden, son of Dr. N. D. Snowden, spent his life at Franklin; he was well versed in medicine and commanded a deservedly large practice.

Dr. Walter S. Welsh was born in Butler county, Pa. He was appointed a surgeon of West Virginia Infantry during the Civil war. His wife, née Martha Marshall, and daughter Sarah survive him.

Dr. D. C. Galbraith was born in Lawrence county in 1841. He served as a surgeon in General Butler's command during the Rebellion and located in Franklin in 1871. Two daughters, Mrs. F. L. Kahle and Mrs. L. J. Mackey, survive him.

Dr. John B. McMillan, son of William and Margaret (Robb) McMillan, was born in Mercer county. He began practice in 1850, being associated with his brother Dr. Andrew J. McMillan at Clintonville. In 1851 he married Mary, daughter of Judge David Phipps. Several daughters survive him, some of whom are residents of the county. "A man he was to all the country dear."

Dr. Isaac St. Clair was for many years a practitioner at Franklin, the firm name of Drs.

Borland and St. Clair being widely and favorably known. Of his surviving family three sons, Samuel, Robert and Jesse, reside in Franklin.

During the elapsed years between 1820 and 1850 several physicians resided within the county, doubtless deserving of the encomiums attaching to the vocation of the Samaritan, but of whom we have scarcely other knowledge than that they had a being, Drs. Gilfillan, Downing, Follett, Powell, Davies, Wynne. The dust of lapsed years effaces the imprints of the past, and the compelling concerns of the present make us unmindful of our obligations to the future, hence the difficulty of securing adequate and reliable data from which to construct biographies. We make here brief personal mention of some well known Venango county practitioners.

#### PERSONAL MENTION OF WELL KNOWN PRACTITIONERS

DR. JOHN R. BORLAND, for sixty-five years a practicing physician, died at his home in Franklin, Pa., Dec. 26, 1916, in his eighty-ninth year. His health and activity up to almost the last day of his life had been remarkable. A farmer's son, at the age of sixteen he began reading textbooks on medicine. Following the procedure of those times, he entered the office of a distinguished practitioner, his mentor being Dr. J. R. Andrews, of New Vernon, Pa. In 1851 he opened an office of his own in Harrisburg, Pa., later taking a course at the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery. The year of his graduation (1865) he entered business in Franklin with the late Dr. Isaac St. Clair as his partner. For one year, 1879, Dr. Borland occupied the chair of theory and practice in the Reform Medical College at Macon, Ga., and was chosen dean of the faculty. Finding the pay insufficient for the support of himself and family, at the end of the year he declined reelection and returned to Franklin. He continued his office practice up till almost the day of his death. Dr. Borland was noted for his interest in the activities of his day outside his profession, and often addressed meetings on political or economic subjects. He was repeatedly the nominee of the Prohibition party for public office.

DR. JOHN B. GLENN was born Dec. 2, 1838, in French Creek township, Venango county, Pa. He was educated in the common schools of that time and in the Utica Academy. He taught district school a number of years; studied law a short time, at Franklin, Pa., in the office of

Hon. S. C. T. Dodd in 1861; enlisted in the army June 1, 1861, Company C, 10th P. R. V. C., and served as a soldier until June 2, 1864, participating in most of the battles in which the regiment engaged during his three years' service. He studied medicine with Drs. Cochran and Johnston, of Cochranton, Pa.; attended medical lectures at the "Cleveland Medical College" at Cleveland, Ohio, in the winter of 1866-67; began the practice of medicine in March, 1867, with Dr. D. C. Galbraith at Waterloo, Pa. (now Polk); removed to Rockland, Pa., in the fall of 1867, and, after practicing there twenty years, removed to Franklin. He became a member of the Venango County Medical Society in 1867 and has been a member since. He graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in March, 1872, and is a life member of the Alumni Association of that college. He was appointed a member of the Board of Medical Examiners for Pensions by President Arthur and has served on that board since, being now an active member. He served twelve years as physician to the County poorhouse and eight years as jail physician at Franklin.

DR. ROBERT CRAWFORD, born May 16, 1815, at Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland, came with his parents to America in 1821, and during his boyhood lived at Pittsburgh and Clinton, Allegheny Co., Pa. He acquired his early education in Pittsburgh and began to read medicine there with Dr. John Wilson, but being obliged to leave that city because he had stolen a body for purposes of dissection made his way on foot to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he continued his medical studies, attending lectures at the Ohio Medical College and studying with Dr. Gross. In May, 1837, he came to Cooperstown, Venango county, where he made his permanent home, and forty years later it was said of him that he had ridden more miles and visited more patients than any other physician in western Pennsylvania. He graduated from the Ohio Medical College in 1845, and received the degree of M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1857; was a charter member of Venango County Medical Society and served as president; was a prominent member and vice president of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society; and a life member of the American Medical Association. For over twenty years he was censor of the medical department of Wooster University, Ohio, and he served a considerable period as United States pension examining surgeon. He died in 1892.

DR. JOHN KELLY CRAWFORD, son of Dr. Robert Crawford, attended Allegheny College

and then studied medicine with his father, later entering the University of Pennsylvania. He commenced practice in Cooperstown, was associated with Dr. Jennings at Titusville, Pa., and eventually returned to the University of Pennsylvania, graduating therefrom in 1869. He has since practiced in Cooperstown, and is particularly well known as a surgeon. He has taken several post-graduate courses.

DR. JOHN A. RITCHIEY, son of Thomas and Mary (Calhoun) Ritchey, was born Nov. 28, 1840, in Armstrong county, Pa., and died May 4, 1906, at his home in Oil City, Pa. In 1861 he enlisted in Company K, 155th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. At the close of the war he studied medicine and was graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1871. He located in Oil City, where he practiced continuously, being for many years associated with Drs. C. W. Coulter and G. W. Magee under the firm name of Ritchey, Coulter & Magee. In late mid-life he married Hannah Etta (deceased), daughter of Dr. Robert Crawford. One daughter, Miriam, now resides in the old home at Oil City. Dr. Ritchey's professional life was contemporary with that of Drs. T. R. Egbert, F. W. Davis, T. C. McCullough and A. F. Cope, all resident at Oil City, and all of marked medical ability and social standing.

DR. WILLIAM A. NICHOLSON, son of Thomas and Mary Jane (Carver) Nicholson, was born March 17, 1850, at Pleasant Grove, Belmont county, Ohio, and was reared in the adjoining county of Harrison, where he acquired his earlier education in the public schools of Harrisville. He completed his medical studies in the University of Michigan, from which he received the degree of M. D. March 29, 1871, on June 4, 1873, moving to Venango county, Pa. Resuming his studies in October, 1875, at New York, he graduated from Bellevue Hospital Medical College March 1, 1876, and interned in Mount Sinai Hospital as senior assistant on the house staff for one year. On May 6, 1886, he located permanently at Franklin. During the spring sessions of the Philadelphia Poly-clinic and College for Graduates, in 1886, 1890 and 1895, he reviewed his studies in general medicine at that institution. He is a member of the Venango County, Pennsylvania State and American Medical societies. He contributed this chapter to the history of Venango county, regretting his failure to supply the life-story of not a few others, dead and living, famed and inglorious, whose services "made drudgery divine."

GEORGE W. DILLE, M. D., was born Jan. 1, 1849, at Mentor, Lake county, Ohio, but from

childhood had lived at Cooperstown, Venango county, Pa., where he is an old-time medical practitioner. He went to the local schools and had a year's course in pharmacy at Ann Arbor, Mich., during the next five years being associated with his father, Dr. James Madison Dille. He then attended the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, until called home by his father's illness to take care of the practice. Later he entered Western Reserve University, at Cleveland, Ohio, graduating in 1872. He has been president (1881) and censor (1882) of the County Medical Society, is a member of the Pennsylvania State Society and American Medical Association; was surgeon of the National Guard nine years; and for over twenty years has been a member of the school board.

DR. JOSEPH WILLIAM LEADENHAM, of Franklin, Pa., was born Jan. 16, 1855, at Weatherly, Pa., a son of Joseph W. and Elizabeth (Roberts) Leadenham. He had for preceptors Dr. J. B. Tweedle and Bellevue Hospital College. He graduated at Long Island College Hospital in June, 1876. His post-graduate studies were pursued at New York City; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Philadelphia, Pa., and London, England. On April 22, 1878, he married L. May Smith, at Knox, Pa. In 1910 he retired from active practice.

F. M. McCLELLAND, M. D., of Utica, was born Dec. 1, 1859, in Mill Creek township, Mercer county, Pa., where he remained on his father's farm until twenty-five years old, studying in the local public schools, high school at Utica, McElwain Institute at New Lebanon, Mercer county, and Edinboro. He taught public school for seven years, beginning in 1878, read medicine with Dr. D. S. Brown of Utica, and in 1885 entered the medical department of Western Reserve University, in Ohio, graduating M. D. in 1887, with class prize in *materia medica* and *therapeutics*. He has since practiced at Utica. He has been a member of the board of health, is present secretary of the Venango County Medical Society, has been school director for over fifteen years, and is interested in farming and oil production.

THOMAS ARMSTRONG IRWIN, A. M., M. D., was born in Wolf Creek township, Mercer county, Pa., Oct. 13, 1862, son of Thomas S. and Dorothy Ellen (Hosack) Irwin. Attended the common schools in his native township, high school at Mercer, Pa., and Grove City College; he received the honorary degree A. M. from Grove City College; entered Jefferson Medical College, 1885; graduated in medicine, Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, Feb. 21, 1888; located in Franklin, Pa., March 8,

1888. In general practice seven years; special work in New York Post Graduate Hospital, 1895; married to Helen Isabell Patterson, Dec. 19, 1895; took passage for London Jan. 1, 1896; King's College Hospital and St. Bartholomew's Hospital; graduated from London Homeopathic Hospital and London Throat Hospital; from London went to Vienna, Austria, taking up special instruction, Government Hospital, which contains five thousand beds. Returned to Philadelphia October, 1896, and entered Philadelphia Polyclinic Hospital and later the New York Polyclinic, graduating from both hospitals. Returning to Franklin, Pa., resumed active practice of medicine, making chronic diseases a specialty. He is a member of Venango County and Pennsylvania State Medical Societies and of the American Institute of Homeopathy.

GEORGE W. MAGEE, M. D., late of Oil City, was born July 27, 1864, in Plaingrove, Lawrence county, Pa. He attended public and private schools in that locality, graduated M. A. from Grove City College in 1886, and received his degree of M. D. from Western Pennsylvania Medical College March 28, 1889. He practiced three years at Seneca, Venango county, removing to Oil City in 1892 and forming a partnership with Drs. J. A. Ritchey and C. W. Coulter. Dr. Coulter retired in 1897, and the other two members practiced together until 1903, after which Dr. Magee had his own office at Oil City until his death, July 3, 1914. In 1911 studied abroad, including a special vacation course at the Edinburgh Post Graduate School, in connection with the University and Royal College. He was a member of the Oil City Medical Society; Venango County Medical Society; Pennsylvania State Society, and American Medical Association; member of the board of examiners of the Oil City Training School for Nurses; surgeon of the Erie railroad for over ten years; and a trustee of the Polk Institute for the Feeble Minded, having been appointed by more than one governor. He was president of the Oil City school board, and represented the district two terms in the State legislature.

S. G. FOSTER, M. D., was born at Belmont, Allegheny county, N. Y., son of Dr. D. H. Foster. He obtained an excellent literary education, graduated from medical college in 1891, and for a year practiced with his father in New York State, coming to Franklin, Pa., in 1892. He has taken several post-graduate courses in Philadelphia and New York City; has been surgeon for the Erie Railroad Company; belongs to the Erie and Pennsylvania Railroad Associations; is a member of the

County and State Medical Societies, and of the American Medical Association. He has served in the city council and as mayor of Franklin, and has represented the district in the State legislature several years. In 1899 he was appointed commissary of the Second Brigade, N. G. P., and in 1902 was appointed aide de camp to the major general of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

DR. LEWIS E. McBRIDE, son of Robert K. and Jane (Perry) McBride, was born in a house of sturdy log structure and pioneer architecture on his father's farm in Scrubgrass township, Venango Co., Pa. His literary education was obtained in local country schools and Grove City College. He taught school for a time and began his medical education in Western Pennsylvania Medical College, at Pittsburgh, in 1892, taking a final degree of M. D. from the Chicago Homeopathic College in 1895. He qualified to practice before the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners, at Philadelphia, in the same year. He immediately began the practice of general medicine at Franklin, Pa., specializing in surgery after two courses of surgical instruction in the New York Post Graduate School of Medicine. He is a member of the Clinical Congress of Surgeons of North America, and of the Venango County, Pennsylvania State, and American Medical Societies. In 1895 he married Emma Lamberton, of Franklin, Pa. Two children, Lewis, Jr., and Margaret, grace the home at Elk and West Park streets.

JAMES MOORHEAD MURDOCH, M. D., born at Oswego, N. Y., March 31, 1869, son of James B. Murdoch, M. D., and Jennie (Moorhead) Murdoch. He was graduated from Yale with the degree of Ph. B., and from the Western Pennsylvania Medical College, where he received the degree of M. D. in 1892. He was graduated in medicine in 1892; appointed interne in Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, 1892-1893; assistant superintendent in Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, Dixmont, Pa., 1893-1896; superintendent of State Institution for Feeble-Minded of Western Pennsylvania, Polk, Pa., since 1896. He was president of the National Association for the Study of the Feeble-Minded; and is a member of the County, State and National Medical Societies. He married at Harrisville, Pa., Oct. 27, 1900, Minnie McCoy Barnes, and they have one child, James Moorhead Murdoch, Jr., born in 1901.

DR. JAMES B. SIGGINS, son of William and Jane (Hunter) Siggins, was born at West Hickory, Pa. He received his education in the common schools, the Edinboro State Normal

School, and Allegheny College, from which latter institution he received the degree of bachelor of arts in 1915. In 1883 he graduated from the medical department of the University of Michigan, being president of his class. In 1896 he located at Oil City, Pa., where he now resides. While a general practitioner, his services are largely given to the surgical branch of medicine. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Societies.

DR. ROSE M. DUNN, a daughter of Edward S. and Sarah (Carmichael) Dunn, a native of Sandy Lake, Mercer Co., Pa., received the degrees of B. S. and M. A. from Grove City College in the year 1892. In 1895 she graduated from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia. She was an interne in West Philadelphia Hospital for Women eighteen months. In 1897 she located at Evansville, Ind., where she practiced about two years. In 1898 she located in Franklin, Pa., where she has since been in continuous practice. She is a member of the Venango County, Pennsylvania State, and American Medical Societies.

DR. ALEXANDER MCLEOD BROWN was born at Pleasantville, Pa., May 8, 1868, his parents being Alexander W. Brown and Minerva (Mitchell) Brown. He graduated from Amherst College in 1892 with the degree of B. S. He was instructor in Lakewood School for Boys in 1892-93; also in Shadyside Academy, Pittsburgh, in 1893-94. He graduated as M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1898; was an interne in Atlantic City Hospital and Altoona Hospital in 1898-99; began practice at Franklin, Pa., in 1899. In 1905 he married Helen, daughter of Judge Christopher Heydrick. He has one son, Alexander, born in 1908. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Associations.

DR. C. M. WILSON, son of John and Sarah A. Wilson, was born at Millbrook, Pa., Oct. 10, 1855. His earlier education was obtained at Millbrook high school. In 1876 he graduated at the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery. In 1877 he located at Mechanicsville, Pa., where he practiced twenty-three years, in 1900 removing to Franklin, his present residence. On June 7, 1883, he married Anna B. Shelley. In November, 1894, he began a general review course at the New York Post Graduate School of Medicine. He is now an officially appointed surgeon for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern and the Clarion & Lake Erie Railroad Companies. He is a member of the State, County and American Medical Societies.

DR. HARRY S. STONE, son of Stephen and Mary E. Stone, was born at Franklin, Pa., April 2, 1875. His literary education was obtained in the public schools of Franklin and at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa. In 1898 he received the degree of doctor of medicine from the University of the Northwest. He was licensed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners in 1900 and began practice at Franklin in the same year. In 1906 he was married to Josephine Packard Leech. He is a member of the Venango County Medical Society and Pennsylvania State Medical Society.

DR. FREDERICK W. BROWN, son of William and Mary Brown, was born at Troy, N. Y., his parents removing to Franklin when he was six years of age. Subsequent to an attendance in the public schools of Franklin, Pa., he entered Bucknell College, graduating in 1896 with the degree of bachelor of science. In 1899 he received the degree of doctor of medicine from the University of Michigan. Returning to Bucknell as a teacher of mental philosophy, for one year, he was accorded the degree of master of science in 1900. Immediately thereafter he resumed his residence at Franklin, where he has since been in the continuous practice of his profession. In 1899 he married Emma Lee Allen, of Franklin. He has been twice elected to the mayoralty of the city, and is the present incumbent of that office. He served two years as president of the local board of education. He is now the medical member of the District Draft Board at Erie, Pa. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Associations.

DR. HARRY F. McDOWELL, son of William D. and Anna (Flemming) McDowell, was born March 11, 1867, at Tarentum, Pa. In 1893 he received the degree of bachelor of arts from Princeton University, and in 1895 the degree of doctor of medicine from the University of Pittsburgh. In 1895-96 he was a resident on the house staff of Western Pennsylvania Hospital at Pittsburgh. In 1896 and 1897 he was a resident physician at Dixmont Hospital. During the years 1897 and 1901, inclusive, he was a resident physician at the State Institution for the Feeble-Minded at Polk, Pa. He located at Franklin, Pa., in 1901, where he has since been in the practice of general medicine. In 1902 he married Edith Jones, of Franklin, Pa. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Societies.

HENRY POWERS HAMMOND, M. D., is of New England ancestry, being of the ninth generation of Hammonds in this country. He was born at Carson City, Nevada, June 4, 1871.

In 1885 he was sent to preparatory school in California for a year, and in 1889 he graduated from the San Francisco high school. He entered the University of California, devoting special attention to chemistry, and spent a summer at the University of California Marine Laboratory. After three years he went to Stanford University to take advantage of their special facilities in physiology and histology, and graduated there with the degree of A. B. in 1893. After a year of post-graduate work there, during which he was also assistant in physiology and histology, he received the degree of A. M. and was awarded a graduate scholarship in physiology by the University of Chicago. The two summers while at Stanford University were spent at work at the Hopkins Seaside Laboratory, Pacific Grove, Cal. He then filled the position of vice principal and teacher of science in the San Luis Obispo (Cal.) high school, leaving there to enter the Albany (N. Y.) Medical College in 1896, from which he received his M. D. degree in 1899, with the honor of alternate valedictorian. After graduation he went to New York, where he spent two years in special work and courses of about three months each with different men in several hospitals in the different branches of medicine, and included a general course at the New York Polyclinic and New York Lying-in Hospital. In 1901 he located in Franklin, Pa., where he has practiced since. He has been engaged in general practice, although his special training and study in surgery has led him to do considerable in that branch. He was married in 1902 to Florence Lyons Sprong, of Slingerlands, N. Y. He has been active in outside business and in the past has had considerable interest in musical and athletic activity. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Societies, the Psi Upsilon College and the Nu Sigma Nu Medical fraternities, and of the Wanango Country Club.

GEORGE B. JOBSON, JR., M. D., was born in Hawick, Scotland, April 18, 1869. In July, 1869, his parents came to America and settled in Amherst, Va. Five years thereafter they removed to McDonough Institute, Maryland, where the father was instructor in agriculture and stock raising, and where the son's education was commenced; supplemented by later attending the public schools of Millbrook, N. Y., and of Franklin, Pa. In 1890 he received the degree of D. V. S. from the Ontario Veterinary College of Toronto and began his professorship of veterinary anatomy in the Columbia University at Washington, D. C. In 1900 he graduated with the degree of M. D. from

the Harvey Medical College of Chicago, where he was assistant to the chair of anatomy two years. For two years he was assistant to Dr. Hale, clinical professor of the eye, and two years assistant to Dr. Antisdale in diseases of the nose, throat and ear. In the fall of 1902 he located at Franklin, where he has since specialized in diseases of the eye, ear, throat and nose. During 1915 he was president of the Venango County Medical Society; and in 1916-1917 served as secretary of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Sections of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society. He is a member of the Venango County Medical Society, the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-laryngology; also a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. On June 21, 1893, he was married to Almira E. Giddings.

GEORGE C. MAGEE, M. D., of Oil City, was born April 15, 1879, and is a brother of Dr. Frank Earle Magee. He attended public school in Mercer county, and the McElwain Institute at New Lebanon, that county, graduating from the latter in 1883; took his medical course at the Western University of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, graduating M. D. in 1901; and the same year began practice at Wesley (Mechanicsville), this county, moving to Oil City in 1914. He has taken post-graduate courses at New York and Chicago, and is a member of the Venango County Medical Club.

JAMES D. BLAIR, M. D., of Franklin, was born in 1878 at Girard, Erie Co., Pa., and attended the public schools, graduating from the high school at Fairview, Erie county. Then he took the full course at the Edinboro State Normal School, graduating in 1898; was principal of schools at Philipsburg, Erie county, two years; studied at Grove City College; graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1904, with the degree of M. D., and has received the degree of A. M. from Grove City College. For several months after finishing his medical course he was engaged at the Red Bank Sanitarium for Children, and after a brief visit home located at Franklin in September, 1904. He is a member of the County and State Medical Societies, and of the American Medical Association.

DR. CLARENCE E. IMBRIE, now residing at Cochranton, Pa., was born in Beaver county, this State, Oct. 12, 1874. He was educated at Grove City College, where he received the degree of A. B. in 1898. He served as sergeant during the Spanish-American war of 1898. He graduated from Baltimore Medical College in 1904. Since receiving the degree of M. D. he

has received post-graduate instruction at the Society of the Lying-in-Hospital, New York City, and at the New York Polyclinic, in general medicine and surgery. He located at Clintonville, Pa., in August, 1904. In June, 1915, he married Julia Cross, of Clintonville, and removed to Cochranton.

BURTON ALEXANDER BLACK, M. D., born April 16, 1876, on a farm near Franklin, Pa., was educated in the common schools and Allegheny College. He taught school for six years and worked at bookkeeping for one year; entered the Western University of Pennsylvania in 1901 and was graduated from the medical department in 1905 with the degree of M. D., having been appointed assistant physician to the College Dispensary and the Reineman Hospital during his senior year. Was appointed physician to the State Institution for Feeble Minded of Western Pennsylvania in 1905, and advanced to assistant superintendent in 1907, which position he now holds. In 1914 he married Clara Freeland, of Kennard, Pa., and they have one child, Martha Elizabeth.

DR. EDGAR VANCE THOMPSON, son of Edgar A. and Emeline (Dwigans) Thompson, was born March 9, 1878, at New Vernon, Pa. In June, 1898, he graduated from McElwain Institute. In 1905 he received the degree of M. D. from the University of Pittsburgh. He was an interne of Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, one year. He located at Franklin in 1906, where he has since been in the continuous practice of medicine and surgery; is a member of County, State and American Medical Societies; also a member of the College of Physicians, Pittsburgh. In June, 1917, he volunteered in the Medical Reserve Corps of the American Expeditionary Forces.

DR. CHARLES H. ASHTON, of Franklin, son of William and Frances (McKibben) Ashton, was born at New Castle, Pa. He received a general education in the public schools of New Castle and Bullion, Pa. In 1905 he obtained the degree of doctor of medicine from the University of Maryland Medical School, and located in Franklin, Pa., where he practiced general medicine five years. With the view of specializing in diseases of the eye, ear, throat and nose he attended the New York Post-Graduate School of Medicine nine months; had charge of the DeMilt and Bartholomew clinics six months; followed the clinics of Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, and of the New York Eye and Ear and Polyclinic Hospitals; later he completed a nine months' course at the University of Vienna, a shorter special course at the University Hospital of Munich, spent one month at Berlin and one month at Paris.

finishing with extended study in the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital of London. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Societies.

**CLIFFORD COOPER, M. D.**, was born Jan. 20, 1882, in Jackson township, Venango Co., Pa. His literary education was acquired in the local schools and Cochranton high school, and he took his medical course in the University of Pittsburgh, graduating in June, 1905. The next year he was interne in the Presbyterian Hospital at Pittsburgh, in August, 1906, settling down to practice at Cooperstown, where he was established until his recent removal to Titusville, Pa. He has done special post-graduate work in the study of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He is a member of the County and State Medical Societies and of the American Medical Association.

**FRANK EARLE MAGEE, M. D.**, was born in 1882 at New Vernon, Mercer Co., Pa., was educated in the public schools, McElwain Institute, at New Lebanon, Mercer county, and the University of Pittsburgh, where he received the degree of M. D. in 1908. He practiced at Utica, Venango county, for six years; spent some time in special study of the eye, ear, nose and throat at Chicago and in the Philadelphia Polyclinic, and has since practiced as a specialist at Oil City. Member of Medical Club of Oil City, of County and State Medical Societies, and of American Medical Association.

**JOHN IRWIN ZERBE, M. D.**, son of John D. and Elizabeth (Saltzer) Zerbe, was born March 9, 1879, at Sacramento, Pa. He was educated in the public schools of Hubley township, Valley View high school, and Millerville State Normal School; graduated from Perkiomen Seminary in 1899, and from the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia in 1907. He taught in the public schools of Schuylkill county seven years, and one year in Montgomery county; taught natural science one year in Perkiomen Seminary; was demonstrator in the Pathological Laboratory of the Medico-Chirurgical College for two years, and an interne in the hospital of that same institution one year. He was a special commissioner from the Pennsylvania State Health Department for the "Mosquito Survey" in the summer of 1906. In August, 1910, he was married to Florence Wiley Van Naten, and has since been in the practice of medicine at Franklin, Pa. He was assistant physician at Polk Institution for the Feeble Minded for three years. He is a member of State, County and American Medical Societies.

**DR. ARDUS CLAIRE THOMPSON, Lt. M. R. C.**,

son of Dr. James C. and Elzora Thompson, was born June 2, 1885, at Sandy Lake, Pa. He obtained his general education from Franklin high school and Bucknell College. In the spring of 1909 he graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of M. D. After a year internship in the Lake Side Hospital of Cleveland, on the surgical staff, he returned to Franklin and began practice. On Oct. 2, 1915, he married Louise Mullins, of Franklin, Pa. In June, 1917, he volunteered in the American Expeditionary Forces and sailed for France Sept. 8, 1917, where he was assigned to service in Base Hospital No. 4 under the supervision of Maj. George W. Crile, M. D., of Cleveland, Ohio. He is a member of the County, State and American Medical Societies.

**P. E. CUNNINGHAM, M. D.**, of Clintonville, was born near that borough May 2, 1886. He was educated in the public schools of the town, the township schools and high school, Oil City business college, from which he graduated in February, 1904, and in October, 1906, entered the University of Pittsburgh, graduating M. D. in June, 1910. He has practiced since at Clintonville, where he has been president of the board of health and member of the school board. He is a member of the County and State Medical Societies and American Medical Association.

**J. B. PERRINE, M. D.**, was born June 2, 1889, at Perrine's Corners, Mercer Co., Pa., and obtained his preparatory education in the local schools and Sandy Lake Institute, which he attended three years. He graduated from the Medico-Chirurgical at Philadelphia June 7, 1912, and was resident physician in the General Hospital at McKeesport, Pa., until July 1, 1913, subsequently practicing at Sheakleyville, Mercer county, until September, 1914, when he located at Wesley (Mechanicsville), Venango county. He holds membership in the County and State Medical Societies and the Omega Upsilon Phi medical fraternity.

The following is a complete list of physicians who are now, or have been, resident practitioners within the county, together with their respective locations. The \* indicates registration as required by the Act of Assembly, June, 1881, and year registered. Unmarked years denote approximate time of practice:

ROSTER OF VENANGO COUNTY  
PHYSICIANS—NOV. 1, 1918

Adair, Emlenton .....	.....	.....
Claude C. Anderson, Venus.....	.....	*1899
J. D. Arters, Oil City.....	.....	*1882

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

J. R. Arters, Oil City.....	1870	Fannie Davis, Oil City.....	*1906
Charles H. Ashton, Franklin.....	*1906	Francis Davis, Oil City.....	*1881
William A. Baker, Rockland.....	*1885	John F. Davis, Oil City.....	*1891
A. A. Bancroft, Oil City.....	*1890	William T. Davis, Oil City.....	*1912
Harry D. Barnes, Franklin.....	*1912	C. Y. Detar, Oil City.....	*1894
S. Taylor Barton, Oil City.....	*1904	E. L. Dickey, Oil City.....	*1894
J. Bascom, Franklin.....	1831	George W. Dille, Cooperstown.....	*1881
S. W. Bates, Cooperstown.....	1830	James M. Dille, Cooperstown.....	*1881
John Beatty, Emlenton.....		A. H. Diven, Salem City.....	*1881
Frank W. Beck, Venus.....	*1903	J. A. Donaldson, Utica.....	1850
R. P. Bell, Franklin.....	*1913	J. W. Dorworth, Oil City.....	*1911
S. H. Benton, Oil City.....	*1881	J. M. Douds, Franklin.....	*1889
W. E. Bishop, Emlenton.....	1840	J. Dowling, Franklin.....	
Burton A. Black, Polk.....	*1905	C. Y. Dunkle, Oil City.....	*1894
Jesse L. Black, Emlenton.....	*1896	Rose M. Dunn, Franklin.....	*1898
John E. Blaine, Pleasantville.....	*1881	James E. Dwyer, Oil City.....	*1909
J. M. Blaine, Emlenton.....		A. G. Egbert, Franklin.....	1875
James D. Blair, Franklin.....	*1904	Thaddeus W. Egbert, Oil City.....	*1881
Jonas T. Boal, Wallaceville.....	*1882	Leo F. Elstein, Oil City.....	*1903
Earl W. Bolton, Oil City.....	*1905	George R. Espey, Franklin.....	1820
John R. Borland, Franklin.....	*1881	William C. Evans, Franklin.....	1852
Jeremiah K. Bowers, Pleasantville.....	*1889	Peter Faulkner, Franklin.....	1820
A. H. Bowser, Salina.....	*1885	William M. Fee, Sugar Creek.....	
A. C. Boyd, Oil City.....	*1914	—— Follett .....	
Irwin H. Boyd, Oil City.....	*1909	William Forster, Oil City.....	1883
Stephen L. Bredin, Franklin.....	1885	James Foster, Clintonville.....	1865
Charles S. Bridenbaugh, Emlenton.....	*1907	Samuel G. Foster, Franklin.....	*1892
B. L. Brigham, Bullion.....	*1881	John Fowler, Emlenton.....	
Alex. McL. Brown, Franklin.....	*1917	D. P. Fredericks, Oil City.....	*1897
Charles H. Brown, Franklin.....	*1905	David C. Galbraith, Franklin.....	*1882
Dean S. Brown, Utica.....	*1884	H. B. Gaynor, Polk.....	*1911
Frederick W. Brown, Franklin.....	*1901	—— Gilfillan, Franklin.....	
Paul L. Bruner, Franklin.....	*1911	J. E. Gillespie, Clintonville.....	1865
Ira Burns, Oil City.....	*1907	Buckland Gillett, Franklin.....	1834
M. M. Byles, Utica.....	1840	William G. Gilmore, Emlenton.....	*1894
J. C. Caldwell, Emlenton.....	*1895	Earl C. Glenn, Franklin.....	*1908
George E. Carey, East Sandy.....	*1893	John B. Glenn, Franklin.....	*1881
George W. Carey, East Sandy.....	*1881	C. P. Godfrey, Clintonville.....	1875
J. W. Carey, Pinegrove Tp.....	*1881	A. W. Goodwin, Oil City.....	*1893
Nelson Chesney, Franklin.....	*1891	Samuel F. Goudy, Rouseville.....	*1888
L. H. Christie, Franklin.....	1875	James Gowen, Emlenton.....	*1835
S. S. Caristie, Oil City.....		Robert J. Greer, Farmington.....	*1894
Robert Colbert, Oil City.....	1870	A. D. L. Griffith, Oil City.....	*1889
G. W. Connelly, Franklin.....	1840	A. R. Griffith, Oil City.....	*1888
William F. Conners, Oil City.....	*1882	John L. Hadley, Oil City.....	*1897
Charles H. Cookson, Oil City.....	*1891	J. E. Hall, Emlenton.....	
A. F. Coope, Oil City.....	*1881	Benjamin F. Hamilton, Emlenton.....	*1881
Clifford Cooper, Cooperstown.....	*1906	Henry P. Hammond, Franklin.....	*1901
Clarence W. Coulter, Oil City.....	*1881	Joseph M. Harding, Oil City.....	*1882
John Coulter, Scrubgrass.....		C. J. Harris, Oil City.....	*1891
Andrew L. Coyle, Oil City.....	*1909	Harry Hatch, Pleasantville.....	*1901
John K. Crawford, Cooperstown.....	*1881	John H. Hazen, Dempseytown.....	*1882
Robert Crawford, Cooperstown.....	*1881	Charles H. Henninger, Polk.....	*1901
Walter T. Cribbs, Franklin.....	*1911	E. G. Henry, Oil City.....	*1911
Elliott P. Crooks, Plumer.....	*1883	Kelse M. Hoffman, Clintonville.....	*1881
P. E. Cunningham, Clintonville.....	1910	J. H. Hood, Oil City.....	*1896
Edward J. Currin, Oil City.....	*1890	R. A. Hudson, Franklin.....	*1886
M. T. Cyphers, Oil City.....	*1896	M. M. Hulings, Oil City.....	
—— Davies .....		Clarence E. Imbrie, Clintonville.....	1904

Thomas A. Irwin, Franklin.....	*1888	Paul McLain, Oil City.....	
Frank B. Jackson, Oil City.....	*1902	Joseph McMichael, Emlenton.....	
Homer Jackson, Clintonville.....	1875	Andrew J. McMillan, Clintonville.....	1850
J. O. Jackson, Franklin.....	*1890	John B. McMillan, Clintonville.....	*1881
W. H. H. Jackson, Oil City.....	*1882	William A. Nason, Pleasantville.....	*1888
George B. Jobson, Franklin.....	*1903	Charles H. M. Neall, Oil City.....	*1912
William R. Jobson, Oil City.....	*1915	Earnest F. Nelson, Dempseytown.....	*1899
Samuel Johnson, Oil City.....	*1912	William A. Nicholson, Franklin.....	*1881
Frank H. Johnston, Utica.....	*1882	John Nevins, Oil City.....	1850
Ross H. Jones, Franklin.....	*1908	John C. O'Day, Oil City.....	*1903
William T. Jones, Franklin.....	*1886	Oliver Ormsby, Emlenton.....	
H. H. Kahle, Oil City.....		George W. Parr, Clintonville.....	*1882
C. S. Kerr, Emlenton.....	*1885	S. M. Patton, Cochranton.....	
H. E. Kirschner, Oil City.....	*1902	J. B. Perrine, Wesley.....	1913
E. A. Kuhns, Emlenton.....	*1886	John Pettit, Pearl P. O.....	*1881
J. T. Lafferty, Utica.....	*1915	Robert W. Playford, Petroleum Center..	*1881
Harry H. Lamb, Rouseville.....	*1904	S. S. Porter.....	
Joseph W. Leadenham, Franklin.....	*1883	M. L. Porterfield, Oil City.....	
J. Lippencott, Chapmanville.....	*1881	W. S. Powell.....	
John J. Looney, Utica.....	*1882	Walter J. Proper, Pleasantville.....	*1884
J. M. Lupher, Pleasantville.....	*1881	Thomas S. Pyle, Franklin.....	*1882
Frank E. Magee, Oil City.....	*1909	William H. Quay, Chapmanville.....	*1894
George C. Magee, Wesley.....	*1903	George S. Ray, Cooperstown.....	*1896
George W. Magee, Oil City.....	*1889	Lyman W. Ranney, Cooperstown.....	*1881
James E. Magee, Seneca.....	*1892	—— Reed, Polk .....	1917
John H. Martin, Utica.....	*1882	George B. McReese, Cranberry.....	*1897
S. M. Martsolf, Oil City.....	*1905	Griffen Reno, Oil City.....	*1881
Manuel Matthews, Barkeyville.....	1860	W. B. Reynolds, Oil City.....	
Harry B. Meade, Cooperstown.....	*1902	Edwin W. Rhea, Oil City.....	*1901
Roy C. Meals, Oil City.....	*1905	Audley W. Ricketts, Dempseytown....	*1904
John F. Miller, Oil City.....	*1906	S. B. Rigg, Oil City.....	
W. W. Mc. Mills, Polk.....	*1905	John A. Ritcheay, Oil City.....	*1881
L. C. Millspaugh, Oil City.....	*1887	Harry L. Rockwood, Oil City.....	*1911
Chauncy A. Mintz, Oil City.....	*1905	Samuel J. Rose, Oil City.....	*1913
John W. Monjar, Seneca.....	*1908	W. R. Roth, Oil City.....	
S. B. Moon, Franklin.....	*1890	T. W. Sampson, Emlenton.....	1875
Edwin W. Moore, Franklin.....	*1881	S. W. Sellew, Oil City.....	*1884
James E. Moore, Emlenton.....	*1881	William W. Serrill, Siverly.....	*1906
J. Harvey Moore, Pittsville.....	*1898	H. H. Seys, Oil City.....	
B. E. Mossman, Polk.....	*1902	William S. Shaffer, Emlenton.....	
Winnie K. Mount, Oil City.....	*1907	William W. Shaffer, Utica.....	*1906
J. Moorhead Murdoch, Polk.....	*1899	Daniel Shannon, Oil City.....	*1906
J. M. MacFarland, Oil City.....		James R. Sharp, Siverly.....	*1910
Lewis E. McBride, Franklin.....	1895	W. Forest Sharpnock, Oil City.....	*1909
Harriet O. McCalmont, Franklin.....	*1893	Philip J. Sheridan, Franklin.....	*1909
S. Plumer McCalmont, Franklin.....	*1888	Nelson W. Shugart, Oil City.....	*1890
Frank P. McCarthy, Oil City.....	*1903	Thomas B. Shugert, Pleasantville.....	1850
Alfred S. McCaskey, Oil City.....	*1881	George Siggins, Franklin.....	*1906
Isadore A. McClellan, Oil City.....	*1909	James B. Siggins, Oil City.....	*1896
F. M. McClelland, Utica.....	*1887	A. J. Slater, Oil City.....	
Edwin M. McConnell, Polk.....	*1889	Edgar R. Sloane, Wesley.....	
William P. McCollough, Oil City.....	*1891	Angeline D. Smith, Oil City.....	*1895
T. C. McCullough, Oil City.....	*1881	David H. Smith, Sandy Creek.....	*1894
Harry F. McDowell, Franklin.....	*1900	Louis W. Smith, Franklin.....	*1893
Samuel W. McDowell, Rockland.....	*1890	M. C. Smith, Pleasantville.....	*1888
William P. McIlroy, Cochranton.....	*1893	Thomas Smith, Franklin.....	1810
M. Ada McKee, Oil City.....	*1897	Edward W. Smitheman, Oil City.....	*1900
Walter L. McKinley, Polk.....	*1882	Nathaniel D. Snowden, Franklin.....	1830
Alex. McK McLain, Oil City.....	*1892	S. Gustine Snowden, Franklin.....	*1882

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Charles P. Snyder, Polk.....	*1902	Jonathan Whiteley, Oil City.....	*1887
Elwood P. Spencer, Cooperstown.....	*1905	John C. Wilkins, Oil City.....	*1902
Joseph C. Stahlman, Franklin.....	*1895	Edward P. Wilmot, Franklin.....	*1882
Rose E. Stanley, Oil City.....	*1913	Calvin M. Wilson, Franklin.....	*1881
Isaac St. Clair, Franklin.....		John Wilson, Pleasantville.....	1850
George B. Stillman, Franklin.....	*1885	John Wood, Scrubgrass.....	1830
Harry S. Stone, Franklin.....	*1900	John D. Wood, Scrubgrass.....	1825
R. M. Strauss, Chapmanville.....	*1809	Wynne .....	
Jacob P. Strayer, Oil City.....	*1891	John Irwin Zerbe, Franklin.....	*1907
Ford M. Summerville, Emlenton.....	*1909		
T. G. Symonds, Franklin.....	1800		
Eugene W. Taylor, Polk.....	*1881		
John E. Taylor, Rockland.....	*1890		
Norman A. Thomas, Oil City.....	*1903		
Ardus C. Thompson, Franklin.....	*1909		
Charles D. Thompson, Oil City.....	*1881		
Edgar V. Thompson, Franklin.....	*1906		
James C. Thompson, Franklin.....	*1898		
Cornelius Thorn, Rouseville.....	*1911		
Charles L. Townley, Oil City.....	*1884		
Grover G. Turner, Franklin.....	*1914		
William C. Tyler, Rouseville..	*1881		
Bert K. VanNaten, Cooperstown.....	*1900		
Robert E. VanNaten, Cooperstown.....	*1881		
Charles N. VanSickle, Wallaceville.....	*1882		
David E. Vogan, Emlenton.....	*1913		
John M. Wallace, Franklin.....	*1894		
James M. Ward, Oil City.....	*1899		
Howard Weber, Dempseytown.....	*1899		
Walter S. Welsh, Franklin.....	1875		
Walter Lowrie Whann, Franklin.....	*1881		

## VENANGO COUNTY PHYSICIANS IN MILITARY SERVICE DURING THE WORLD WAR

Charles B. Ashton.....	Lieutenant
Richard Bell.....	Lieutenant
Paul Bruner .....	Lieutenant
E. Llewellyn Dickey.....	Major
James E. Dwyer.....	Captain
William Gramley.....	Captain
Edward G. Henry.....	Lieutenant (died in Liverpool Hospital Nov. 7, 1918)
Clarence E. Imbrie.....	Captain
Norman S. Reed.....	Lieutenant
Vance W. Sayers.....	Lieutenant
Philip J. Sheridan.....	Captain
Harry S. Stone.....	Captain
F. M. Summerville.....	Captain
Clyde Tibbens.....	Captain
Ardus Clair Thompson.....	Captain
Edgar Vance Thompson.....	Lieutenant
J. Irwin Zerbe.....	Captain

## CHAPTER XIII

## OIL—GAS—COAL

HISTORIC OIL CREEK—PENNSYLVANIA'S MOST PROFITABLE WELL—OTHER MAMMOTHS ON THE LIST—THIRD SAND AND FIRST GUSHERS—KEEPING UP WITH THE PROCESSION—PETROLEUM CENTER HAS ITS INNING—A PATCH THAT YIELDED MILLIONS—BIG BONANZAS SET THE PACE—DOWN TO THE ALLEGHENY RIVER—A FRUITFUL VALLEY BY THE WAYSIDE—LUBRICATING OIL MANIFESTS ITSELF—DOWN THE WINDING ALLEGHENY — PITHOLE AND PLEASANTVILLE APPEAR—OIL EXCHANGES ENTER AND EXIT—THE OIL CITY OIL EXCHANGE—OTHER OIL EXCHANGES—NATURAL GAS—GASOLINE—VALUE OF NATURAL GAS AND OIL IN THE UNITED STATES—COAL.

It is an old saying that it is always darkest just before day. Whether this be true or not in the physical world, many people believe in its truth as applied to human experience. When fortunes are at the lowest ebb, and the future looks dark, hope kindly suggests this comforting doctrine. Whether the earth swings into a zone of darkness just before daylight

or not may be well doubted. It has been expressed by some able writers of fiction in describing events passing through the night, especially in equatorial regions, as that profound mysterious blackness that covers the earth and announces the coming of the dawn. It is fortunate for humanity that this old adage prevails and is believed in. An astronomer

would perhaps be puzzled if he were required to explain why it should be darkest just before dawn rather than just after twilight. Irrespective of the truth of the doctrine, undoubtedly the darkest time in the history of Venango county was the summer of 1859. The iron business upon which so many had depended for a living had completely failed and been abandoned. The lumber business had almost vanished. On June 5th a frost killed practically all the growing crops. One morning they were beautiful and promising, well advanced beyond the average of former years, the next day they were white and stiff with frost. On June 12th another frost killed any struggling vegetation that was left. The question of food became of vital importance. Work was so scarce that a man considered himself fortunate to get twenty-five cents a day for his disheartening labor. Unexpected want knocked at the door and the people were powerless. After two months of anxiety, dismay, a change came as sudden and complete as was the disaster. The heavens opened and a new light shone upon the earth for them. It was as startling as the sudden peace of 1918 which came, as one of its heroes expressed it, "two minutes after we were going like hell."

For this change the residents of Venango county were no more responsible than they were for the frost. A young graduate of Dartmouth College, George H. Bissell, a school teacher and superintendent of schools, visiting New York City saw in a window a bottle of Seneca oil. As a student he had been much interested in chemistry. The natural oils had especially engaged his attention. Examining it as well as he was able, he decided that it bore a close resemblance to the oil called coal oil, or rock oil, which he had seen distilled from soft coal and bituminous shales. He sent the oil to his former instructor in Dartmouth, Professor Crosby, requesting his opinion. His own opinion being confirmed by Crosby's analysis, he decided to organize a company to obtain this oil, and interested J. S. Eveleth in the enterprise. The following account is the latest pronouncement on oil in this region. It is taken from the supplement of the Oil City *Derrick*, dated Dec. 15, 1917, and consequently it is authoritative. It embodies a great deal of original investigation. Our profound thanks are due The Derrick Publishing Company for permitting the editor of this history to quote largely from the Industrial Number of the Oil City *Derrick* of Saturday, Dec. 15, 1917. In no other way could so much valuable history be

presented to our readers. The experts working for the *Derrick* have compiled through the years of the oil development the leading facts in regard to it. Mr. P. C. Boyle, the originator of the idea of gathering into one organ all that relates to the industry, has this to say:

A unique feature of the *Derrick's* departments, and one not found in any other industry, is the monthly oil report. This gives each month the totals of the wells completed in each important division, with their initial producton, whether productive, dry or gas wells, the name of the farm on which located, and the names of the owners, together with the work under way at the close of each month. This report has been published monthly for over forty years, and constitutes a remarkable personnel of the oil operators during that time and the development of the field. Any of the descendants of the oil men of the past can find in its details the date, location and results of the wells drilled by their ancestors at any time in former years. Such a register of a business can be found in no other industry, and it has been left to the *Derrick* alone to carry on this work.

The policy of the present management of the *Derrick* has been that which seemed best for the general welfare of the industry. While at times this may have aroused antagonism in some of the branches of the business, time has proven the wisdom of the course pursued. To-day the oil business is more prosperous than ever before, and the *Derrick* rejoices with the producer, the refiner and the marketer in the magnitude of the industry which they have each had a part in promoting.

While giving its readers the fullest information on the general news of the day, it has maintained its position as "the Organ of Oil." In its files for the last thirty-two years is gathered the history of the wonderful development of the petroleum industry, not only in the fields of the United States but that of all foreign countries. So complete has been this work that the future historian of the oil industry has no need to go beyond the pages of the *Daily Derrick* to combine the daily evolution of the business with accurate data. The field and market events following each other in orderly succession have been guides to prosperity or depression in the trade, for those who have read the signs aright, and these have always been given the readers of the *Derrick* as accurately as possible, and without prejudice.

When oil production was confined to this State oil exports had become third in value of the United States. What must it be to-day? The importance of preserving the history of the beginnings and of the progress of this new element brought into commercial life in this county is appreciated in 1918 as never before. The part played in the world war by oil and gasoline is almost inconceivable. A high official may be forgiven for saying in his enthusiasm that the Allies were floated to victory on a river of oil.

(BY EDWIN C. BELL)

"The Drake well, drilled on the east bank of Oil creek in the northern edge of Venango county, Pa., and completed on the 27th of August, 1859, was the first projected enterprise of the kind to bring petroleum—in quantity—into general utility. This first well was developed out of an organization known as the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company, instituted by George H. Bissell and J. S. Eveleth. After disposing of a large share of the issued stock to New

## HISTORIC OIL CREEK

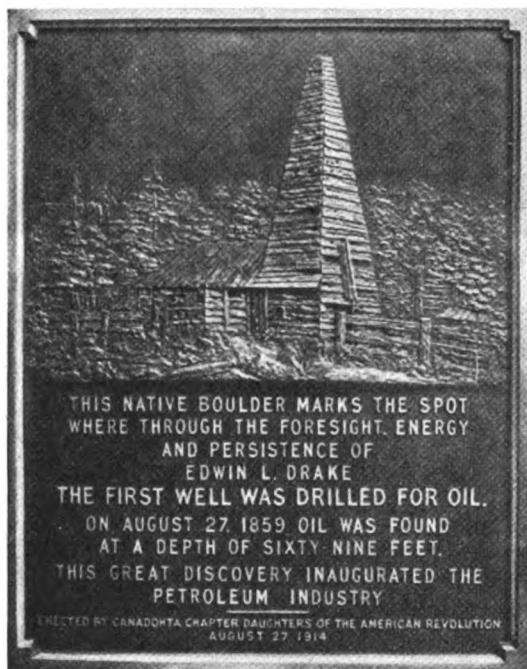
AMAZING ACTIVITY, STARTLING SURPRISE AND MUSHROOM TOWNS FEATURE THE CRADLE OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

(BY J. J. McLaurin)

"Naturally the rush for slices of supposed territory centered upon the forty-three farms of manifold shapes and sizes bordering Oil creek from the Drake well to the mouth of the stream, sixteen miles southward. Some were untenanted, and the occupants of others forced a slim livelihood from the reluctant soil, 'the world unknowing, by the world unknown.' None imagined the narrow ravine, from a few rods to a half mile wide, was ordained to be the busiest valley on the continent, abounding with startling vagaries of fortune and enlisting ambitious mortals from every quarter of the globe in a mad race to clutch a tidbit of the coveted acres. Everybody wanted ground on the banks of the current, nobody assuming that the paying streak might underlie the rugged cliffs and extend far inland, therefore operations hugged the streams closely until crowded back and up the hills by the advancing hosts.

"The Bissell, Griffin, Conley, two Stackpole, Pott, Shreve, two Fleming, Henderson and Jones farms, comprising the four miles between the Drake well and the Miller tract, hardly passed muster. Traces of oil-pits were visible on the Bissell patch, and a big dam, used for pond-freshets to float logs and oil boats, was located on Oliver Stackpole's farm. Two small refineries tinctured the Stackpole and Fletcher lands, with eighteen or twenty wells for congenial society. His four hundred acres, on both sides of the creek, Robert Miller sold in 1863 to the Indian Rock Oil Company of New York. Still a railway station and formerly the principal shipping point for oil, wells were drilled, refineries built and the stirring 'town' of Meredith bloomed and withered within hail of Miller depot. The Lincoln well bowled out sixty barrels per diem; the Boston fifty, the Bobtail forty, the Hemlock thirty and a number more from twelve to twenty-five barrels at an average depth of six hundred feet. The Barnsdall Oil Company worked the Miller and Shreve tracts, drilling extensively on Hemlock run, and George Bartlett planted the Sunshine Oil Works. The mushroom village, the refineries and the derricks have vanished as completely as Herculaneum or Sir John Franklin.

"Twenty-four wells, eight of them failures and Samuel Downer's fifty-barrel Rangoon the largest, drilled on the flats and the abrupt hill



(For description see biography of Edwin L. Drake, Volume II)

England parties, the holders of the diversified shares, desiring to realize on their investment, reorganized the original company under the name of the Seneca Oil Company. Then, to carry this proposition into execution, Col. Edwin L. Drake was selected to become the pioneer developer of the property, and thereby the founder of the petroleum industry. It was his devisement that ended in drilling into the rock formations of the earth in search of the fountainhead of the oil from whence had come the seepages found upon the surface of the ground where he located his well. The very ground surrounding the spot upon which Colonel Drake drilled his well in 1859 is to-day (1917) still yielding paying quantities of oil."

on the east shore, tested to a finish George Shaffer's fifty acres below Miller, divided by Oil creek into two strips, in Cherrytree and Allegheny townships. The Oil Creek railroad was opened in July, 1864, to Shaffer farm, which at once sprang into importance, in sixty days expanding from one house and barn to a sizzling settlement of three thousand souls. Sixteen hundred teams, employed mainly to haul oil, supported the medley of stables, boarding houses, saloons and dancehalls, 'balloon frames' constructed in a few hours and liable to burn or collapse on the slightest pretext. Every other door led to a barroom, everything

acter and brain, who studied the strata and gathered valuable data, operated to the queen's taste, using heavy tools, tall derricks and casting. No. 2 well equalled No. 1 in production and endurance, both lasting for years. J. B. Fink's July posey was the third. The scramble began in December, 1867, the Fee and Jack Brown wells, on the Atkinson farm, flowing four hundred barrels apiece. A lively town, eligibly located in a depression of the table-lands, was named Shamburg, as a compliment to the genial doctor. The Tallman, Goss, Atkinson and Stowell farms brought the production to three thousand barrels. Frank W. and



(For description see biography of Edwin L. Drake, Volume II)

reeked with oil, lodgings were at a premium, mud was knee-deep, meals cost a round dollar, and 'Person's Hotel' fed four hundred a day. Rake it over with a fine-tooth comb, turn on the X-rays, scrape and root, and to-day you could not find a particle of Shaffer the dimensions of a toothpick. When the railroad was extended the buildings were torn down and carted to the next jumping-off point.

"Three miles eastward, in Allegheny (now Oil Creek) township, the Cherry Run Petroleum Company finished a well on Oliver Stowell's fifty acres in February of 1866, drilled through the sixth sand, eight hundred feet deep and good for one hundred barrels. The company, managed by Dr. G. Shamburg, a man of char-

W. C. Andrews, Lyman and Milton Stewart, John W. Irvin and F. L. Backus had bought John R. Tallman's one hundred acres in 1865. Their first well produced in September, 1867, and in 1868 they sold two hundred thousand barrels of oil for \$800,000. A. H. Bronson paid \$25,000 for the Charles Clark farm, a mile northeast. His first well paid for the property and itself in sixty days. Operations in the Shamburg pool were almost invariably profitable and handsome fortunes were realized. A peculiarity was the presence of green and black oils, a line on the eastern part of the Cherry Run Company's land defining them sharply. Their gravity and general properties were identical and the black color was attrib-

uted to oxide of iron in the rock. Dr. Shamburg died at Titusville and the town he founded is a shadow o' auld lang syne.

#### PENNSYLVANIA'S MOST PROFITABLE WELL

"Widow Sanney's fifty acres, south of the Shaffer farm, had three refineries and a full score of unremunerative wells, David Gregg's two hundred following suit with forty non-paying and three fair wells and two refineries, Victoria and Continental. The McCoy well, the first below the Drake to produce, at two hundred feet averaged fifteen barrels a day from March until July, 1860. Fire burning the rig, the hole was drilled to five hundred and fifty feet and dry. The Clinton Oil Company of New York bought two hundred acres on Oil creek and Hemlock run, a bunch of medium wells repaying the outlay. James Farrell, a teamster who saved his earnings, paid \$200 for thirty acres of rough land south of Beatty's, on the east side of Oil creek and Bull Run, the southwest corner of Allegheny (now Oil Creek) township. From him Orange Noble, in the spring of 1860, leased sixteen acres for \$600 bonus and one-quarter royalty, jerking a 'spring-pole' five months to sink one hundred and thirty feet, without a speck of greasiness. Deserting it for nearly three years, the owners decided to drill the hole deeper, the 'third sand' having been found up the valley, George B. Delamater, Noble's partner in a store at Townville, and L. L. Lamb, of Pleasantville, joining in the undertaking. They contracted with Samuel S. Fertig, of Titusville, whose energy and reliability had gained the goodwill of operators, to drill about five hundred feet. Fertig went to work in April of 1863, using a boiler and engine and agreeing to take one-sixteenth of the working interest as part payment. Early in May, at four hundred and fifty feet, a 'crevice' of unusual size was encountered. Fearing to lose his tools, the contractor shut down for consultation. Noble was at Pittsburgh on a hunt for tubing, ordered from Philadelphia, waiting for which the well stood idle two weeks, surface water vainly trying to fill the hole. On the afternoon of May 27, 1863, everything was ready. 'Start her slowly,' Noble shouted from the derrick to Fertig, who stood beside the engine and turned on the steam. The rods moved up and down with steady stroke, bringing a stream of fresh water, which it was hoped a day's pumping might exhaust. Then it would be known whether two of the owners acted wisely on May 15th in rejecting \$100,000 for one half of the well. Noble

went to an eating house near by for a lunch. He was munching a sandwich when a boy at the door hawled: 'Golly! Ain't that well spitting oil?' Turning around, he saw a column of oil and water rising high, enveloping the trees and the derrick in dense spray. The gas roared, the ground fairly shook, and the workmen hastened to extinguish the fire beneath the boiler. The 'Noble well,' the most profitable ever known, had begun its dazzling career at three thousand barrels a day. Crude was \$4 a barrel, rose to \$6, to \$10, \$13. Compute the receipts at these quotations—\$12,000, \$18,000, \$30,000, \$39,000. Sinbad's fabled Valley of Diamonds was a ten-cent sideshow compared with the stubborn facts of the valley of Oil creek.

"Soon the foaming volume filled the hollow close to the well and ran into the creek. For \$200 three men crawled through the blinding shower and contrived to attach a stop-cock to the pipe. By sunset a seven hundred-barrel tank was overflowing. Boatmen down the creek, notified to come at once for all they wanted at \$2 a barrel, by midnight took the oil directly from the well. Next morning the stream was turned into a three thousand-barrel tank, filling it in twenty-one hours. Sixty-two thousand barrels were shipped and fifteen thousand tanked, exclusive of leakage and waste, in thirty days. Week after week the flow continued, declining to six hundred barrels in eighteen months. The superintendent of the Noble & Delamater Oil Company, organized in 1864 with a million capital, in February of 1865 recommended pulling out the tubing and cleaning the well. Learning of this, Noble & Delamater overloaded their stock at or above par. The tubing was drawn, the well pumped fifteen barrels in two days, stopped suddenly and was abandoned as worthless, after its dizzy production of eight hundred thousand barrels had netted over \$4,000,000. Is it surprising that multitudes were eager to stake their last dollar, their health, their lives and their immortal souls on the chance of such winnings?

"One fourth of the lordly total went to the children of James Farrell, who did not live to share the harvest, and one half to Noble & Delamater, less the sixteenth assigned to Fertig, who bought another sixteenth from John Farrell while drilling the well and sold both to William H. Abbott for \$27,000. Thirteen wells were drilled on the Farrell strip. The Craft had yielded one hundred thousand barrels and was doing two hundred when the seed-bag burst, drowning the well. The Mulligan and the Commercial did their share toward making the

territory the finest in Oildom, with third sand on the flats and in the ravine of Bull run forty feet thick. Not a fragment of tanks or derricks is left to indicate that two score fortunes were acquired on the desolate spot, once the scene of tremendous activity, more coveted than Naboth's vineyard or Jason's Golden Fleece. On the Caldwell two hundred acres, south of the Farrell, twenty-five or thirty wells yielded largely. The Caldwell, finished in March of 1863, at the northwest corner of the tract, flowed twelve hundred barrels a day for six weeks. Evidently deriving its supply from the same pool, the Noble well cut this down to four hundred barrels. A demand for one fourth the output of the Noble, enforced by a threat to pull the tubing and destroy the two, was settled by paying \$145,000 dollars for the Caldwell and an acre of ground. 'Growing small by degrees and beautifully less,' within a month of the transfer the Caldwell quit forever, drained dry as the bones in Ezekiel's vision.

"Noble, Delamater and Lamb journeyed to the Drake well in October, 1859, secured leases on the Stackpole and Jones farms, and drilled two dry holes, with similar ill luck on other claims in 1860-61. The firm disposed of the business in 1863, squared accounts in 1864, and Noble located at Erie. He established banks, erected imposing blocks of buildings, served three terms as mayor, put up the first grain elevator, and contributed greatly to the prosperity of the city, living to a ripe age. George B. Delamater studied law, published a paper at Youngsville two years and went to Townsville in 1852. Returning to Meadville in 1864, he built a massive block, started a bank, promoted important enterprises, engaged in politics and served a term as State senator. Misfortune overtook him and he died poor. His son, George Wallace Delamater, a young lawyer of superior ability and address, entered the lists and was elected mayor and senator. He married, occupied a brick mansion, operated at Petrolia, practiced law and assisted in managing the bank. Nominated for governor in 1890, he conducted an aggressive campaign and was defeated by Robert E. Pattison. Swamped by politics, unable longer to stand the drain that had been sapping its resources, the Delamater bank suspended two weeks after the gubernatorial election. The senior Delamater went to Ohio to start life anew. George W. pursued his profession in Seattle and Chicago and died in life's meridian near Pittsburgh.

#### OTHER MAMMOTHS ON THE LIST

"James Foster owned sixty acres opposite the Farrell and Caldwell tracts and sold the upper half, extending over the hill to Pioneer run, to the Irwin Petroleum Company of Philadelphia, whose Irwin well pumped two hundred and twenty barrels a day. The Porter, finished in May of 1864, flowed all summer, gradually declining from two hundred barrels to seventy and winding up at twenty. Other wells and a refinery paid nicely and Pioneer sprouted into a lively town, attracting the usual throngs. Operations encroached upon the higher lands, exploding the notion that rich territory was limited to flats along the streams. Wells yielding from fifteen to three hundred barrels lined the ravine thickly. Clark & McGowan ran a feed store, the 'Howard Hotel' and 'Morgan House' dished up wholesale meals, shipping offices and warehouses abounded, tanks and derricks mixed in the mass and boats loaded with crude for refineries down the creek or the Allegheny river. The town and rigs and craft have faded, a forlorn tank alone staying 'to point a moral or adorn a tale.' John Rhodes, the last resident, who lived in a shanty beside the track, was killed by a train in February, 1892. He hauled oil in the old days to Erie and Titusville, became a producer, dropped his bundle, cultivated a garden and felt independent. Matthew Taylor, a Cleveland saloonist, took a \$400 flyer at Pioneer on his first trip and returned home in two weeks with \$29,000, which subsequent deals quadrupled. A Titusville laborer, 'wan year from Oireland,' stuck \$50 into an out-of-way Pioneer lot, sold it in a month for \$5,000, bought a snug farm and sent across the water for his colleen. The driver of a contractor's team bartered his wages for an interest in a drilling well, cleaned up \$30,000 by the transaction, and fitted westward to grow up with the country. Pleased with the work of a clerk, Captain Funk deeded him an interest in the last well he ever drilled, which the lucky young fellow sold for \$100,000.

"Joel W. Sherman, of Cleveland, leased the lower end of the Foster farm and yanked the 'spring-pole' in the winter of 1861-2. His wife's money and his own played out before the second sand was penetrated. It was impossible to drill deeper 'by hand-power.' A horse or an engine must be had to work the tools. 'Pete,' a white, angular equine, was procured for one-sixteenth interest in the well. Another sixteenth was traded to William

Avery and J. E. Steele for a small engine and boiler. Lack of means to buy coal caused a week's delay. For another sixteenth a purchaser grudgingly surrendered \$80 and a shotgun. The last dollar had been expended when, on March 16, 1862, the tools punctured the third sand. A 'crevice' was hit, the tools were drawn out, and in five minutes everything swam in oil, the well spouting two thousand barrels a day of pure green petroleum! It 'whooped it up' bravely, averaging nine hundred barrels daily for two years and ceasing to spout in February of 1864. Pumping restored it to seventy-five barrels, which dwindled to six or eight in 1867, when fire consumed the rig and the veteran was deserted. The product sold at prices ranging from fifty cents to \$13 a barrel, aggregating \$1,700,000. This meant \$100,000 for the man who traded 'Pete,' \$100,000 for the man who invested \$80 and a rusty gun, \$100,000 for the pair who furnished the engine, and \$1,000,000, deducting the royalty, for the man who had neither cash nor credit for a load of coal. Not one of the other fifty or sixty wells on the Foster farm, some of them Sherman's, was particularly noteworthy. The broad flat, the sluggish stream and the bluffs across the creek remain as of yore, but the wells, the shanties, the tanks, the machinery and the workmen have disappeared. Sherman struck a spouter in Kentucky, operated at Bradford two or three years, sojourned at Warren and returned to Cleveland to die. A duster six rods from the Sherman, and dozens of light pumpers in the midst of gushers, demonstrated the uncertainty of the district.

#### THIRD SAND AND FIRST GUSHERS

"Late in the fall of 1859, 'when th' frost wuz on th' punkin' an' th' bloom wuz on th' rye,' David McElhenny sold the upper and lower McElhenny 180 acres at the southeast corner of Cherrytree township to Capt. A. B. Funk, for \$1,500 and one fourth of the oil. Joining the Foster farm on the north, Oil creek bounded the upper tract on the east and south and Pioneer run gurgled through the western side. McElhenny's faith in petroleum was of the mustard-seed order and he grasped Hussey & McBride's \$20,000 for the royalty. Captain Funk—he obtained the title from running steamboats on the Youghiogheny river—in February of 1860 commenced the first well on the lower McElhenny farm. All spring and summer the 'spring-pole' bobbed serenely, punching the hole two hundred and sixty feet,

with no suspicion of oil in the first and second sands. The Captain's son, A. P. Funk, bought a small locomotive boiler and an engine and resumed work during the winter. Early in May, 1861, at four hundred feet, a 'pebble rock'—the 'third sand'—tested the temper of the center-bit. Hope took a fresh hold, but languished as the tools bored thirty, forty, fifty feet into the 'pebble' and not a drop of oil appeared. Then something happened. Flecks of foam bubbled to the top of the conductor, jets of water rushed out, oil and water succeeded, and a huge pillar of pure oil soared above the derrick. The Fountain well had tapped a fountain in the rock destined thenceforth to furnish mankind with Pennsylvania petroleum. The first well put down to 'the third sand,' and really the first on Oil creek that flowed from any sand, it revealed oil possibilities before unknown and unsuspected, tallying three hundred barrels a day for fifteen months, when paraffine clogged the pores and pipes effectually. Captain Funk, who died in 1864, leased John Fertig five acres to 'kick down' a well in the spring of 1860, with two partners to help the plucky youth who had accumulated \$30 by teaching school. Not a sign of oil could be detected at two hundred feet, and the trio departed from the field. The teacher earned more money by drilling on the Allegheny river, four miles above Oil City. The Fountain well revolutionized the business by 'flowing' from a lower rock. Fertig hastened to sink the neglected well to the bounteous stratum. The second three-hundred barrel geyser from the third sand, it rivalled Funk's and arrived in time to aid in celebrating the glorious Fourth. The strike enriched Fertig, who formed a partnership with the late John W. Hammond, operating successfully in different sections, carrying on a refinery and opening a bank at Foxburg.

#### KEEPING UP WITH THE PROCESSION

"Frederick Crocker drilled a notable well on the McElhenny, near the Foster line, jiggling the 'spring pole' in 1861 and piercing the sand at one hundred and fifty feet. He pumped the well incessantly two months, getting clear water for his pains. Neighbors jeered and asked if he proposed to empty the interior of the planet into the creek. One morning the water wore a tinge of green. The color deepened, the gas let go and a stream of oil shot upwards. The well spurted for weeks at a one thousand-barrel clip and was sold for \$65,000. Shutting in the flow to prevent waste

wrought serious injury. The well disliked the treatment, the gas sought a vent elsewhere, pumping coaxed back the yield temporarily to fifty barrels, and in the fall it yielded up the ghost. Mr. Crocker kept in line and had a part in the well that ushered in the mammoth Bradford field.

"Bennett & Hatch spent the summer of 1861 drilling on a lease adjoining the Fountain, striking the third sand at the same depth. On Sept. 18th the well burst forth with three thousand three hundred barrels per day. This addition to the supply with big additions from other wells, knocked prices to 20 cents, to 15, to 10. All the coopers in Oildom could not make barrels as fast as the Empire well could fill them. Bradley & Son, of Cleveland, bought a month's output for \$500, loading one hundred thousand barrels in boats under their contract. The despairing owners, suffering from 'an embarrassment of riches,' tried to cork it up, but the well would not be choked off. Twenty-two hundred barrels was the daily average in November and one thousand two hundred in March, playing April fool by stopping without notice, seven months from its inception. Cleaning out and pumping restored it to six hundred barrels, which dropped two-thirds, and it breathed its last in 1863. Edward Bennett, genial, generous and auburn-haired, long survived his partner, operated in Butler county and Kansas, and counted his friends by whole battalions.

"The territory boomed immensely. Derricks and engine houses studded the McElhenny farms, which operators hustled to perforate as full of holes as a strainer. To haul machinery from the nearest railroad doubled its cost. Pumping five to twenty barrels a day, when adjacent wells flowed more hundreds spontaneously, lost its charm, and most of the small fry were abandoned. A town—Funkville—arose on the northern end of the upper farm, sputtered a year or two, then 'folded its tent like the Arabs and silently stole away.' A search with a microscope would fail to unearth an atom of Funkville or the wells that created it. Fresh strikes in 1862 kept the fever raging. Davis & Wheelock's No. 1 poured out one thousand five hundred barrels; the Densmore Triplets, on a two-acre crumb, six hundred, five hundred and four hundred; the Olmstead, American, Canfield, Aikens, Burtis and two Hibberts, of the vintage of 1863, from two hundred to five hundred barrels each, and a band of lesser pumpers aided in holding the McElhenny field around six thousand five hundred barrels a day for sixteen months.

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"Almost simultaneously with the mastodonic Empire, the Buckeye well on the George P. Espy farm, east of the lower McElhenny, in September of 1861 set off at a one thousand-barrel trot. The gas for a year forced the oil into tanks, two hundred feet up the steep hill, placed there for lack of room on the strip of level ground supporting the derrick. The production fell to eighty barrels and, tiring of a climbing job which smacked of Sisyphus and the rolling stone, rested permanently. From this spectacular well J. T. Briggs, broad-gauged and gilt-edged, manager of the Briggs and the Gillette Oil Companies, in 1862 shipped to Europe the first consignment of American petroleum ever sent across the Atlantic. The Buckeye Belle stood waist-high to its consort, a dozen others on the slope and hill-top produced gently, and Northrop Brothers operated a refinery.

"North and west, at the bend of Oil creek, lay John Benninghoff's hilly three hundred acres, through which Benninghoff run flowed southward, Pioneer run crossing the northeast corner, the first developed. Some wells pumped and more spouted twenty-five to three hundred barrels seven days a week, taking no holidays nor vacations. The owner refused tempting offers for a potato-patch until he could dig the tubers. The Lady Herman, which Robert Herman politely named for his wife, was a two hundred-barrel beauty. William Jenkins, the Huidekoper Oil Company, the Dekalb Company and Edward Harkins hooked bonanzas. Operations spread back of the hills and into the township. The first well ever cased and the first pump-station, piping crude to Shaffer, were on the hillside at the mouth of Benninghoff run. These and the platoon of wells John Mather photographed in 1866, within an hour of their destruction by fire that swept the hill bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard, lightning touching off a rig. Wealth surfeited the frugal landowner, who distrusted banks and stored his pelf in a cheap safe in the sitting-room, stocking it with a half-million dollars in gold and greenbacks. Cautious friends vainly warned him to be careful, lest 'thieves break through and steal.' James Saegar, a fly youth of Saegertown, engaged two Baltimore burglars and enlisted four pals to loot the flimsy safe. At midnight on Thursday, Jan. 16, 1868, Saegar and three of his party knocked at Benninghoff's door and were admitted by Henry Geiger, who worked on the farm and slept in the house. Binding and gagging the father, mother, daughter and Geiger, the marauders made short work of

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

opening and rifling the safe. They bundled up \$265,000, mostly in gold, missed \$200,000 in large bills wrapped in a brown paper, sampled Mrs. Benninghoff's pie, drank a gallon of milk and drove off in their two-horse sleigh. Joseph Benninghoff, the son, who had attended a dance at Petroleum Center, returned in 'the wee sma' hours,' untied the prisoners and sounded the alarm. Telegraph wires flashed the news broadcast, papers printed sensational reports, and by noon on Friday the oil regions were agog and people all over the United States talked of 'The Great Benninghoff Robbery.' Three of the accomplices were convicted and sent to the penitentiary, the professionals fled to Canada and could not be extradited, Saegar adjourned to Texas to raise cattle, Benninghoff sold his Venango property in the spring and removed to Mercer county, dying at Greenville in 1882.

"West and north of Benninghoff were the farms of John and Robert Stevenson. On the former, extending to Oil creek, in 1863 Reuben Painter, whom everybody liked for his courage and cheerfulness, drilled an interesting well. The contractor reporting it dry, Painter moved the machinery and canceled the lease. He and his brothers operated profitably in Butler and McKean counties, Reuben dying at Olean in 1892. In November of 1864 the Ocean Oil Company of Philadelphia bought John Stevenson's lands. The Ocean well flowed at a six hundred-barrel pace on Sept. 1, 1865, with the Arctic a good second. Fifty others varied from fifty to two hundred. Thomas McCool built a refinery and the farm paid the company two thousand per cent! The principal wells on both Stevenson tracts clustered far above the flats, the derricks and buildings resembling 'a city set on a hill.' Painter's alleged dry-hole, drilled seventeen feet deeper, gushed furiously, the best well in the collection. Said the Ocean manager, as he watched the oily stream ascend: 'A million dollars wouldn't touch one side of this property!' Sinking a four-inch hole seventeen feet farther would have given Reuben Painter this splendid return two years earlier. Phillips Brothers, Isaac N., Charles M., John I. and Thomas M., hailing from New Castle, cut a melon south of the Epsy and on the Niagara tract, Cherrytree run, the foundation of their ample fortunes and colossal strides in various fields.

## PETROLEUM CENTER HAS ITS INNING

"Surrounded by farms unrivaled as oil territory and sold to Woods & Wright of New

York at a fancy price, James Boyd's seventy-five acres in Cornplanter township, south of the lower McElhenny, dodged the petroleum artery. The sands were there, but so barren of oil that nine tenths of the forty wells did not pay one tenth their cost. The Boyd farm was for months the terminus of the railroad from Corry. Hotels and refineries were built and the place had a short existence, a brief interval separating its lying-in and its laying-out.

"G. W. McClintock, in February of 1864, sold his two hundred acres on the west side of Oil creek, midway between Titusville and Oil City, to the Central Petroleum Company of New York, organized by Frederic Prentice and George H. Bissell. The farm embraced the site of Petroleum Center and Wild-Cat Hollow, a circular ravine three fourths of a mile long, in which two hundred paying wells were drilled, Brown, Catlin & Co.'s medium one, finished in August of 1861, the first on the tract. The company bored a multitude of wells and granted leases only to actual operators, for one-half royalty and a large bonus. For ten one-acre leases \$100,000 cash and one half the oil, offered by a New York firm in 1865, were refused. The McClintock well, drilled in 1862, figured in the one thousand-barrel class. The Coldwater, Meyer, Clark, Anderson, Fox, Swamp-Angel and Bluff made enviable records. Altogether the Central Petroleum Company and the corps of lessees harvested at least \$5,000,000 from the McClintock farm. The company staked off a half dozen streets and leased building lots at exorbitant figures. Board dwellings, offices, hotels, saloons and wells mingled promiscuously. Poor fare, worse beds and the worst liquors were tolerated by the hordes who flocked to the land of derricks. The owners of the ground opposed a borough organization and the town traveled at a headlong go-as-you-please. Sharpers and prostitutes flourished, with no fear of human or divine law. Dance-houses nightly counted their revelers by hundreds. Kindred spirits, like Woods, Frank Ripley, Edward Fox, David Young and Colonel Brady, were not hard to discover. George K. Anderson figured conspicuously, his income exceeding \$5,000 a day for two years. He built a sumptuous residence at Titusville, sought political preferment, served in the State Senate, bought thousands of acres of land, plunged deeply into stocks and insured his life for \$315,000, at that time the largest risk in the country. If he sneezed or coughed the agents of the insurance companies grew nervous and summoned a posse of doctors to

consult about the case. Outside speculations swamped him at last. The stately mansion, piles of bonds and scores of farms passed under the sheriff's hammer in 1880. Anderson tried the Bradford field, operating on Harrisburg run. The result was discouraging. He entered an insurance office in New York, and accepted a government berth in New Mexico. He arrived at his post, sickened and died in a few days, 'a stranger in a strange land.' For two or three years 'The Centre'—called that for convenient brevity—acted as a sort of safety-valve to blow off the surplus wickedness of the regions. Then 'the handwriting on the wall' manifested itself. Clarion and Butler speedily reduced the four thousand population to a remnant. Charley Wicker's *Record* collapsed, homes were torn down, and the giddy throngs scattered to the four winds. Bissell's brick bank building, two vacant churches, a weather-beaten hall, an apology for a depot and a modicum of dwellings are sole survivors of what was once surging, seething Petroleum Center.

#### A PATCH THAT YIELDED MILLIONS

"On the east side of the stream was Alexander Davidson's triangular plot of thirty-eight acres, a mud-flat, a portion of rising ground and the rest edgewise. Dr. A. G. Egbert, who had recently hung out his shingle at Cherry-tree village, in 1860 negotiated for the farm. Davidson died, a hitch in the title delayed the deal, but finally Mrs. Davidson signed the deed for \$2,600 and one twelfth the oil. Charles Hyde paid the Doctor this amount in 1862 for one half his purchase and it was termed the Hyde & Egbert farm. The Hollister well in 1861, the first on the land, flowed strongly. Owing to the dearness and scarcity of barrels, the oil was let run into the creek and the well was never tested. The lessees could not afford, as their contract demanded, to barrel the half due the land owners, because crude was selling at twenty-five cents and barrels at four dollars. Jerseyites in the spring of 1863 drilled the Jersey well on the south end of the property, which flowed three hundred barrels a day for nine months, another draining it early in 1864. The Maple Shade well touched the right spot in the third sand on Aug. 5, 1863, starting at one thousand barrels, averaging eight hundred for ten months, dropping to fifty the second year and holding pat until 1869. Fire on March 2, 1864, burned the rig and twenty-eight tanks of oil, but the well kept flowing just the same, netting the owners a clear profit of

\$1,600,000. Maple Shade was only one of twenty-three healthy wells on the 'measly patch' poor Davidson offered in 1860 for \$1,000.

"Companies and individuals strained and tugged to get even the smallest lease. Probably no parcel of ground in America of equal size ever yielded a larger return, in proportion to expenditure. Six weeks' production of either of the two biggest gushers would drill all the wells and erect all the tanks on the property. The Keystone, Gettysburg, Kepler, Eagle, Benton, Olive Branch, Laurel Hill, Bird and Potts wells, with a score of minor note, maintained production that paid the holders of the royalty \$8,000 a day in 1864-5. E. B. Grandin, William C. Hyde, A. C. Kepler and Titus Ridgway clinched a lease of one acre on the west side of the lot, north of the wells already down, subject to three-quarters royalty. Kepler dreamed that an Indian menaced him with bow and arrow. A coquettish young lady handed him a rifle, he fired at the dusky foe, the redskin vamoosed and a stream of oil burst forth. Visiting his brother, who superintended the farm, he recognized the scene of his dream, secured a lease, and bored the Coquette well in the spring of 1864. Each partner would be entitled to one sixteenth of the oil. Hyde & Ridgway sold their interest for \$10,000 a few days before the tools reached the sand. This interest Dr. M. C. Egbert, brother of the purchaser of the farm, next bought at a large advance. He had one sixth in fee and wished to own the Coquette. Grandin and Kepler declined to sell. The well was finished and did not flow. Tubed and pumped a week, gas checked its working and the sucker rods were pulled. Immediately the oil streamed high in the air. Twelve hundred barrels a day was the gauge at first, settling to steady business for a year at eight hundred. A double row of tanks lined the bank, connected by pipes to load boats in bulk. Oil was 'on the jump' and the first cargo of ten thousand barrels brought \$90,000, ten days' production. Three months later Grandin and Kepler sold their one eighth for \$145,000. Kepler was a dreamer whom Joseph might be proud to accept as a chum.

"Dr. M. C. Egbert retained his share. Riches showered upon him by thousands of dollars a day. He built a comfortable home and lived on the tract. In company with John Brown, afterward manager of a big corporation at Bradford, he sought to control the shipping branch of the trade and failed. He went to California, returned to Pennsylvania,

operated in McKean county and settled in Pittsburgh. Dr. A. G. Egbert sold one twelfth of the Coquette well for \$250,000, cleared at least \$1,500,000 from the Davidson investment, pitched his tent in Franklin, served capably in Congress and died in 1896. Charles Hyde engaged with his father and two brothers in merchandising and lumbering, originating Hydetown, four miles above Titusville. The Hydes frequently procured oil from the 'springs' on Oil creek, selling it for medicine as early as 1841. From their store Colonel Drake obtained tools and supplies that Titusville could not furnish. Charles organized the Hydetown Oil Company, which drilled a two hundred-barrel well on the McClintock farm below Rouseville in 1860. He operated at different points, taking \$2,000,000 from the Hyde & Egbert farm. Founding the Second National Bank at Titusville in 1865, he removed to New Jersey in 1869 and died in 1901, bequeathing \$8,000,000 to his family and charity.

"The bluff overlooking Petroleum Center from the east formed the western side of the McCray farm. At its base, on the Hyde & Egbert plot, were several of the finest wells in Pennsylvania, the Coquette almost touching McCray's line. Dr. M. C. Egbert leased part of the slope and drilled three wells. Other parties drilled five and the eight behaved so handsomely that the owner of the land declined an offer, in 1865, of \$500,000 for his eighty acres. A well on top of the hill, not deep enough to hit the sand and believed to be dry, postponed further operations five years. Jonathan Watson, advised by a clairvoyant, in the spring of 1870 drilled a three hundred and thirty-three-barrel well on the uplands of the Dalzell farm, close to the southern boundary of the McCray. The clairvoyant's astonishing guess revived interest in Petroleum Center, which for a year or two had been on the down grade. Besieged for leases, McCray could not meet a tithe of the demand at \$1,000 an acre and half the oil. Every well tapped the pool underlying fifteen acres, pumping as if drawing from a lake of petroleum. Within four months the daily production was three thousand barrels, for the landowner a regular income of \$9,000 a day for the last quarter of 1870 and nine months of 1871, from one sixth of a farm sold to him in 1850 for \$1,700. McCray's first venture in oil, a share in a two-acre lease at Rouseville, profited him \$70,000. Instead of selling his oil right along at an average of five dollars, he stored one hundred and fifty thousand barrels in iron tanks, to await higher prices, rejecting a bid of \$5.35 and in-

sisting upon \$5.50. He kept it for years, losing thousands of barrels by leakage and evaporation and selling the bulk of it at one to two dollars. McCray removed to Franklin in 1872 and died long since. The wells drooped and withered and the fifteen-acre field is a pasture.

"The Dalzell or Hayes farm, on which the first well—fifty barrels—was drilled in 1861, boasted the Porcupine, Rhinoceros, Ramcat, Wildcat, and a menagerie of thirty others ranging from fifteen to three hundred. At the north end of the farm, in the rear of the Maple Shade and Jersey wells, the Petroleum Shaft and Mining Company attempted to sink a hole seven feet by seventeen to the third sand. The shaft was dug and blasted one hundred feet, at immense cost. The funds ran out, gas threatened to asphyxiate the workmen, the big pumps could not exhaust the water, and the project was given up.

"East of Petroleum Center, three miles, on the bank of a limpid stream, John E. McLaughlin, still living in Oil City, drilled a one thousand four hundred-barrel gusher in 1868. The sand was coarse, the oil dark, and the strike a surprise. Wide-awake operators struck a bee-line for leases. A town was floated in two weeks, a grocer erecting the first building and labeling the place 'Cash-Up' as a gentle hint to patrons not to let their accounts get musty with age. A twelvemonth sufficed to sponge the town off the slate. Small wells and dry holes ruled the roost, even those nudging 'the big 'un' missing the pay-streak. The McLaughlin pumped seven years, having the reservoir all to itself. Located ten rods away in any direction, it would have been a duster and Cash-Up would not have existed. Two miles away Windsor Brothers, who built the Windsor block and had a hardware store in Oil City, lassoed a three hundred-barreler in 1869. Others followed rapidly, folks flocked to the newest center of attraction and a typical oil town strutted to the front. The territory lacked the staying quality, the Butler region was about to down, and 1871 saw Red-Hot reduced to three houses, a half dozen light wells and a muddy road. Not a scrap of the tropical town has been visible for four decades. Tip-Top, called into being by the Shamburg development and Pitcher's fair well, in 1866, on the Snedaker tract, also filled a short engagement. A medley of wells yielded pretty freely, but the territory depreciated and the elevated town glided down to nothingness. Carl Wageforth, a genius known in early years as one of the owners of the Story farm, started a 'town' in the woods two miles above

Shamburg. The 'town' collapsed, Wageforth clung to his store a season and next turned up in Texas as the founder of a German colony. He secured a claim in the Lone Star State about the size of Rhode Island, settled it with thrifty immigrants from the 'Faderland,' scooped a bushel of ducats, drifted back to Crawford county, and died at Meadville.

#### BIG BONANZAS SET THE PACE

"William Story owned five hundred acres south of the G. W. McClintock farm, Oil creek, the Dalzell and Tarr farms bounding his land on the east. He sold in 1859 to Ritchie, Hartje & Co., of Pittsburgh, for \$30,000. George H. Bissell had negotiated for the property, but Mrs. Story would not sign the deed. Next day Bissell returned to offer the wife a sufficient inducement, but the Pittsburgh agent had been there the previous evening and secured her signature to the Ritchie-Hartje deed by the promise of a silk dress. A twenty-dollar gown changed the ultimate ownership of millions of dollars. The seven Pittsburghers organized a stock company in 1860 to develop the farm, incorporated on May 1, 1861, as the Columbia Oil Company, with a nominal capital of \$250,000, in shares of \$25 each. Twenty-one thousand barrels of oil were produced in 1861 and ninety thousand in 1862, shares selling at \$2 to \$10. Foreign demand for oil improved matters. On July 8, 1863, the first dividend of 30 per cent. was declared, followed in August and September by two of 25 per cent. and in October by one of 50 per cent. Four dividends, aggregating 160 per cent., were declared the first six months of 1864. The capital was increased to \$2,500,000 by calling in the old stock and giving each holder of a twenty-five dollar share five new ones of \$50 apiece. Four hundred per cent. were paid on this capital stock in six years! The original stockholders received their money back forty-three times, and had ten times their first stock to keep on drawing fat dividends! A person who bought one hundred shares in 1862 at two dollars, in eight years would have been paid \$107,000 and have five hundred fifty-dollar shares on hand! From a mere speck of the Story farm the Columbia Oil Company in ten years produced oil that sold for \$11,000,000. Andrew Carnegie, king bee of the steel trade, was a stockholder. The policy of the company was to operate its lands systematically. Wells were not drilled at random over the farm, nor were leases granted to specu-

lators. The wells, never amazingly large, held on tenaciously. The Ladies' produced sixty-five thousand barrels, the Floral sixty thousand, the Big Tanks fifty thousand, the Story Center forty-five thousand, the Breedtown forty thousand, the Cherry Run fifty-five thousand, the Titus pair one hundred thousand and the Perry thirty-five thousand. The company erected machine shops, built houses for employes, and the village of Columbia thrived. The Columbia Cornet Band, superbly appointed, its thirty members in rich uniforms, its instruments the finest and its drum-major an acrobatic revelation, could have given Gilmore's or Sousa's points in ravishing music. G. S. Bancroft superintended the wells and D. H. Boulton assisted in conducting affairs. The village has vanished, the cornet band is hushed, the field is the prey of weeds and underbrush and brakemen no more call out 'Columby.' A few small wells, hidden amid the hills, produce a morsel of oil, but the farm, despoiled of \$16,000,000 of greasy treasure, would not bring one tenth the price paid William Story for it in the fall of 1859.

"James Tarr, a strong-limbed, loud-voiced, stout-hearted son of toil, farming in summer and hauling timber in winter to support his family, owned two hundred acres on the east bank of Oil creek, opposite the southern half of the Story farm. For himself, George B Delamater and L. L. Lamb, in the summer of 1860, Orange Noble leased seven acres of the Tarr farm, at the bend in Oil creek. Dry holes which the partners 'kicked down' on the Stackpole and Jones farms dampening their ardor, they let the Tarr lease lie some months. Contracting with a Townville neighbor—N. S. Woodford—to juggle the 'spring-pole,' he cracked the first sand in June, 1861. The Crescent well tipped the beam at five hundred barrels. The first well on the Tarr farm, it flowed an average of three hundred and fifty barrels a day for a year, quitting without notice. It produced one hundred and twenty-five thousand barrels, yet paid not a dollar of profit, crude most of the period of its existence bringing ten to twenty-five cents, drilling, royalty and tankage absorbing every nickel. On the evening of Aug. 1, 1861, as Tarr sat eating his supper of fried pork and johnny-cake, Herman Janes, of Erie, entered the room. 'Tarr,' he said, 'I'll give you \$60,000 in spot cash for your farm!' Tarr almost fell off his chair. A year before \$1,000 would have been big money for the whole plantation. 'I mean it,' continued the visitor; 'if you take me up I'll close the deal right here!'

Tarr 'took him up' and the deal, which included a transfer of several leases, was closed quickly. Janes planked down the \$60,000 and Tarr had stepped from poverty to affluence. This was the first large cash transaction in oil lands on the creek and people promptly pronounced Janes a proper candidate for the asylum. A short distance below the Crescent well William Phillips, who had leased a strip the whole length of the farm, was urging a 'spring pole' lustily on his Phillips No. 1, in the spring of 1861. The Crescent's unexpected success spurred him to greater efforts. Hurrying an engine and boiler from Pittsburgh, he started his second well on the flat twenty rods north of the Crescent. The first sand, from which meanwhile No. 1 was rivaling the Crescent's yield, had not a pinch of oil, but Phillips hustled the tools and on Oct. 19th, at four hundred and eighty feet, pierced the shell above the third sand. At dusk he shut down for the night. The weather was clear and the moon shone brightly. Suddenly a vivid flame illumined the sky, Reuben Painter's well on the Blood farm, a mile southward, had caught fire and blazed furiously. The rare spectacle of a burning well attracted everybody for miles. Phillips and Janes hastened to the fire, returning about midnight. An hour later they were summoned from bed by a man yelling: 'The Phillips is bu'sted and runnin' down the creek!' People ran to the spot on the double-quick, past the Crescent and down the bank. Gas was settling densely upon the flats and into the creek oil was pouring lavishly. For three or four days the flow raged unhindered, then a lull occurred and tubing was inserted. After the seed-bag swelled, a stop-cock was placed on the tubing and opened when oil was wanted, wooden troughs conveying the stuff to boats drawn up the creek by horses, the chief mode of transportation. The oil was 44° gravity and four thousand barrels a day gushed out. In June of 1862 a careful gauge showed it was doing three thousand six hundred and sixty barrels. The Phillips well held the champion belt twenty-seven years. It produced until 1871, getting down to ten or twelve barrels and ceasing altogether the night James Tarr expired, having yielded nine hundred and fifty thousand barrels. Cargoes of the oil were sold to boatmen at five cents a barrel, thousands of barrels were wasted, tens of thousands were stored in underground tanks, and much was sold at three to thirteen dollars.

"N. S. Woodford, Noble & Delamater's contractor, had leased the ground between the

Crescent and the Phillips No. 2. His three-thousand-barrel, finished in December, 1861, drew its grist from the Phillips crevice and interfered with the mammoth gusher. When the two became pumpers neither would give out oil unless both were worked. If one stopped the other pumped water. Ultimately the Phillips crowd paid Woodford \$500,000 for his well and lease. He retired to his Townville home with \$600,000 to show for eighteen months' operations on Oil creek and never bothered any more about oil. The Woodford well repaid its enormous cost. Charles Lockhart and William Frew, of Pittsburgh, with whom and John Vanausdall, of Oil City, Phillips was associated, bought out their partners and put the Phillips-Woodford interests into a stock company capitalized at \$2,000,000, profiting enormously by the purchase. The demand for a fragment of the territory boiled over. Densmore Brothers brought in a seven hundred-barreler at the lower end of the farm late in 1861, the Crane swang into line and a zoological freak introduced the animal fad, which named the Elephant, Young Elephant, Tigress, Tiger, Lioness, Scared Cat, Anaconda and Weasel wells. Reckless speculation held the fort unchecked. The third sand was sixty feet thick, the territory was durable and three hundred walking-beams exhibited 'the poetry of motion' to the music of three-four-five-six-eight-ten-dollar oil. Mr. Janes built a commodious hotel and a town of two thousand population flourished. Tarr sold his entire interest in 1865, for gold equivalent to \$2,000,000 in currency, and removed to Crawford county. Another million would hardly cover his royalties. His quaint speech coined words and phrases entrenched in the nomenclature of the trade. He died in 1871, near Meadville, and Tarr Farm station, wells and houses have tobogganed into oblivion. Janes operated at Bradford, abode at Erie and rounded out four-score-and-ten twelvemonths of deserved success. Comrades in business and good-fellowship, Phillips and Vanausdall settled in South Oil City and died many years ago.

#### DOWN TO THE ALLEGHENY RIVER

"South of the Tarr and Story farms, on both sides of Oil creek, were John Blood's four hundred and forty acres, with the Ocean Petroleum Company's twelve flowing wells on the flats in 1861. The Maple Tree Company's burning well spouted two thousand five hundred barrels for months, wilted to three hundred in a year and was wiped out in October,

1864, by a fire that consumed twenty wells and a legion of tanks of crude, the loss exceeding \$1,000,000. Blood well No. 1, flowing one thousand barrels, No. 2, six hundred barrels, and five other gushers never yielded after the conflagration, prior to which the farm was producing more oil than the balance of the region. Brewer & Watson, Ballard & Trax, Edward Filkins, Henry Collins, Reuben Painter, James Burrows and J. H. Duncan were pioneer operators on the tract, a corner of which Oil City and Franklin people are operating profitably. Blood sold in 1863 for \$500,000 and removed to New York, splurged two or three years, quit the city for the country and died long since. The Blood farm was notably prolific, but its glory has departed, the rugged hills and sandy banks its principal features.

"On John Rynd's three hundred acres, divided by Oil creek, the Blood farm north and the Smith east, Cherrytree and Weikal runs watering the western half, the Rynd well in 1861 flowed five hundred barrels and lasted two years, the Crawford staying until June, 1864. Six passable wells tested Rynd Island, a dot at the upper end of the farm, a New York company buying the entire property in 1864. A dozen strokes of the pump every hour caused the Agitator well to flow strongly a few minutes. The Sunday well, its companion, loafed six days in the week while the other worked, flowing on the Sabbath when the Agitator rested from its labors. Hume & Crawford, Porter & Milroy, B. F. Wren, the Ozark, Favorite, Frost, Northern and a score of other companies operated vigorously. The third sand thickened and improved with the elevation of the hills. Five refineries handled one thousand barrels of crude per week. A snug village bloomed on the west side, the broad flat affording an excellent site. The late John Wallace, who fought at Balaklava and survived the terrific 'Charge of the Six Hundred,' M. Stambaugh and Theodore Ladd were prominent in the later stage of operations. Companies bored three hundred wells on Cherrytree run and its tiny branches without jarring the trade unduly. Kane City, two miles north, raised Cain in subdued style, the territory 'wearing like leather.' D. W. Kenney's wells wafted in Alemagooselum City, its unique title a capital advertisement. Recent operations extended northward and westward, sections of Cherrytree, Oakland and Plum townships as far as Dempseytown and Sunville yielding gas and oil in satisfactory measure.

"William McClintock, owner of the two hun-

dred acres below Rynd, on the west side of Oil creek, dying in 1859, the widow remained on the farm with her grandson, John W. Steele. The first wells were sunk in 1861, one or two of the rigs projecting into the stream. The Vanslyke flowed one thousand two hundred barrels a day, declined slowly, and in its third year pumped fourteen thousand. The Lloyd, Eastman, Little Giant, Morrison, Hayes & Merrick, Christy, Ocean, Painter, Sterrett, Chase and sixty more each put up fifty to four hundred daily. Directly between the Vanslyke and Christy, a few rods from either, New York parties finished the Hammond well in May, 1864. Flowing three hundred barrels a day, the Hammond killed the Lloyd and Christy and reduced the Vanslyke to a ten-barrel pumper. The New Yorkers bought the royalty and one-third acre for \$200,000. The end of June the tubing was drawn from the Excelsior well, on the John McClintock farm, five hundred yards east, flooding the Hammond and all the wells in the vicinity. The creek has washed away the ground on which the best wells were located. The late John W. Waitz, of Oil City, a live wire, resurrected the property in 1892, utilizing compressed air and realizing a snug fortune. His brother, C. A. Waitz, lives at Rynd and keeps the wells and farm in apple-pie order. The tract produced hundreds of thousands of barrels and repeatedly changed owners.

"Mrs. McClintock, like thousands of women since, attempted one day in March of 1863 to hurry up the kitchen fire with kerosene. The result was her death in an hour and the first funeral to the account of the treacherous oil can. She worked hard and secreted her wealth about the house. Her will devised everything to the adopted heir, John W. Steele, twenty years old, who had married the daughter of a farmer in Sugar Creek township. He hauled oil in 1861 with hired plugs until he could buy a span of stout horses. Oil creek teamsters, proficient in lurid profanity, coveted his varied stock of pointed expletives. The blonde driver, of average height and slender build, pleasing in appearance and address, by no means the unlicked cub and ignorant boor he has been represented, neither smoked nor drank nor gambled. He was hauling oil when a neighbor ran to tell him of Mrs. McClintock's death. A search of the premises disclosed \$200,000 the old lady had hoarded. William Blackstone, appointed his guardian, restricted the minor to a reasonable allowance and his conduct was irreproachable. Attaining his majority, Mr. Blackstone paid him

\$300,000 in a lump and he resolved to 'see some of the world.' He saw it, and the escapades of 'Coal Oil Johnny' supplied no end of material for gossip. Many tales concerning him were exaggerated, and many pure inventions. Philadelphia he colored a flaming vermillion. He squandered thousands of dollars a day, but generally somebody was helped by his prodigality, which often assumed a sensible phase. Twenty-eight hundred dollars, one day's receipts from his wells and royalty, went toward the erection of the soldiers' monument in the Franklin park, the second in the

stroyed both. The Wheeler, Wright & Hall, Alice Lee, Jew, Deming, Haines and Taft wells were choice specimens. William and Robert Orr's Auburn Oil Works and the Pennechuck Refinery chucked six hundred barrels a week into the stills. The McClintocks have migrated from Venango. Some are in heaven, some in Crawford county and some in the West.

"John L. Mitchell leased the two Buchanan farms, at the junction of Oil creek and Cherry run, formed a partnership with Henry R. Rouse and Samuel Q. Brown and 'kicked down' a well to the first sand, which pumped



Union to the fallen heroes of the Civil war. Steele reached the end of his string and the farm was sold in 1866. He returned 'dead broke,' was the obliging baggagemaster at Rouseville, ran a meat market at Franklin, took charge of a railway station in Nebraska and was a model citizen, still on deck and contented.

"A hundred fruitful wells graced John McClintock's two hundred acres east of Steele, which Chase & Alden leased in 1861. The Anderson, drilled in 1861 in the corner on Cherry run, flowed three years, waning gradually from two hundred barrels to twenty, earning \$100,000 and then selling for \$60,000. The Excelsior produced fifty thousand barrels before the interference with the Hammond de-

six or eight barrels, was sold to A. Potter, drilled to the third sand and scheduled a three hundred-barreler, pumping for fifteen years, its crop netting \$290,000. This was the third or fourth producing well in the region. The Curtis, usually considered 'the first flowing well,' in July of 1860 spouted freely at two hundred feet. It was not tubed and surface water soon mastered the flow of oil. The Brawley—sixty thousand barrels in eight months, the Gable & Flower, the Shaft, the Sherman and the Nausbaum were moguls of 1861-62. Beech & Gillett, Alfred Willoughby, Taylor & Rockwell, Shreve & Glass, Allen Wright, Wesley Chambers and a host of companies operated in 1861-62-63. The territory was singularly profitable. Mitchell & Brown

erected a refinery, divided the tracts into hundreds of acre-plots for leases, and laid out the town of Buchanan Farm. Allen Wright, president of a local oil company, in February of 1861 printed his letter-heads 'Rouseville' and the name was adopted unanimously.

"Rouseville grew swiftly and for a time was headquarters of the industry. Church and schools arose, good people feeling that man lives not by oil alone any more than by bread. Dwellings extended up Cherry run and Mount Pisgah. Wells and tanks covered the flats and there were few drones in the busy hive. James White fitted up an opera house and C. L. Stowell opened a bank. Henry Patchen conducted the first hotel. N. W. Read enacted the role of 'Petroleum V. Nasby,' the postoffice receipts in 1869 footing up \$25,000, the population grazing nine thousand in 1871 and the community rating high for intelligence, progressiveness and crooked streets. Two huge refineries have renewed its youth and the borough has taken a new lease, up-to-the-minute in every essential to comfort and convenience.

"Henry R. Rouse lost his life on April 17, 1861, victim of an appalling tragedy. Near the upper line of the farm, on the east side of Oil creek, at the foot of the hill, Merrick & Co. drilled a well eight rods from the Wadsworth. At three hundred feet gas, water and oil rushed up, lifting the tools out of the hole. The evening was damp and the atmosphere surcharged with gas. People ran with shovels to dig trenches and throw up a bank to hold the oil, no tanks having been provided. Mr. Rouse and George H. Dimick, his clerk and cashier, now in the Kentucky swirl, with six others, had eaten supper and were sitting in Anthony's Hotel discussing the fall of Fort Sumter. A laborer at the Merrick well bounded into the room to say that a vein of oil had been struck and barrels were wanted. All ran to the well but Dimick, who went to send barrels. Finishing this errand, he hastened towards the well. A frightful explosion hurled him to the earth. Smouldering coals under the Wadsworth boiler had ignited the gas. In almost an instant the two wells, tanks and an acre of ground saturated with oil were in flames, enveloping one hundred persons. Men digging the ditch or dipping the oil dropped like leaves in a gale. Some perished scarcely a step from safety. Rouse stood near the derrick at the fatal moment, struggled to his feet, groped a dozen paces and fell again. Two men dragged him forth, his flesh baked and his clothing shreds. He was carried to a shanty and gasped through five hours of ex-

cruciating torture, no word nor act betraying his fearful suffering. Although obliged to sip water from a spoon at every breath, he dictated a concise will, devising the bulk of his million-dollar estate in trust to improve the roads and benefit the poor of Warren county. This dire calamity blotted out nineteen lives and disfigured thirteen men and boys permanently. The blazing oil was smothered with dirt the third day and tubing put in the well, which flowed ten thousand barrels in a week and ceased. The Merrick, Wadsworth, Halderman, Clark & Banks, Trundy, Comet and Imperial wells, the tanks and the dwellings, have been obliterated.

#### A FRUITFUL VALLEY BY THE WAYSIDE

"Cherry run evolved the celebrated Reed well in July, 1864, which with others on five acres of rocks and stumps harvested \$2,000,000 for William Reed, Robert Criswell, I. N. Frazier and their successors in ownership. Reed, who came to Franklin in 1859 and drilled by contract, sold to Bishop & Bissell for \$200,000, after pocketing \$75,000 from sales of crude, and returned East with his pile. An idea haunted him that Captain Kidd's treasure was buried at a certain point on the Atlantic coast. He lodged on the shore and hunted land and sea for the hidden deposit, digging in the sand, sailing some distance and peering into the water. One day he rowed off in his skiff, a storm arose, and that was the last ever seen of the man who planted Cherry run on the petroleum map. Criswell bagged \$310,000, operated in the Butler field, lived opposite Monterey, removed to Ohio and died near Cincinnati. One son, David S., resided at Oil City and made money in the Petrolia district, settling at Butler. Robert W. Criswell, a born journalist, edited the *Derrick*, the Titusville *Petroleum World*, the Cincinnati *Inquirer* and New York papers, killed in his prime by a subway train. Frazier left with \$100,000 and next loomed up as 'the discoverer of Pithole.' Three hundred paying wells lined the flats and slopes half way to Plumer, putting the valley at the head of the column. The Union, Brevoort, Curtin and St. Nicholas Oil Companies filled their coffers, Cornen & Beers drew a luscious prize on the Smith farm, Murray & Fawcett and John J. Zane raked in shekels on Moody run and scores of operators prospered.

"Seventy-five wells were drilled on Hamilton McClintock's four hundred acres in 1860-61. Here was Cary's 'oil spring' and expecta-

tions soared high. The best yielded from one hundred to three hundred barrels a day. Low prices and the war led to the abandonment of the smaller brood. A company bought the farm in 1864. McClintockville, a promising village on the flat, boasted two refineries, stores, a hotel and the customary accessories, of which the bridge over Oil creek is the chief reminder. Near the upper boundary of the farm the Reno railroad crossed the valley on a center trestle and timber abutments, not a splinter of which remains. Two miles eastward the Shaw farm fattened the bank accounts of Forster W. Mitchell, Davis & Hukill, E. M. Hathaway and Capt. J. T. Jones. The Clapp farm had a long list of good strikes and dusters, much of the oil from the second sand. George H. Bissell and Arnold Plumer, of Franklin, bought the lower half, in the closing days of 1859, from Ralph Clapp, and the Cornplanter Oil Company the upper half. The Hemlock, Cuba, Cornwall and Cornplanter, on the latter section, were productive. The Williams, Stanton, McKee, Elizabeth and Star did their bit on the Bissell-Plumer division. Four refineries flourished and the tract coined money for its owners. Graff & Hasson's one thousand acres, part of the land granted Cornplanter in 1796, had a multitude of medium wells that produced year after year. In 1818 the Indian chief, who loved firewater dearly, sold his reservation to William Connely, of Franklin, and William Kinnear, of Center county, for \$2,121. Matthias Stockberger bought Connely's half in 1824 and, with Kinnear and Reuben Noyes, erected the Oil Creek furnace, a foundry, mill, warehouses and steamboat landing at the east side of the mouth of the stream. James Hasson located on the property with his family and farmed five years. James Halyday settled on the east side in 1803. The Bannon family came in the forties. Thomas Moran built the 'Moran House' in 1845 and died in 1857. Dr. John Nevins arrived in 1850 and in the fall of 1852 John P. Hopewell started a general store. Hiram Gordon opened the 'Red Lion Inn.' Samuel Thomas shod horses, and three or four families occupied small habitations. This was the place, when 1860 dawned, that was to become the petroleum metropolis and be known wherever men have heard a word of 'English as she is spoke.' Cornplanter was the handle of the humble settlement, towards which a stampede began with the first glimmer of spring. One evening a jovial party met in a store. J. B. Reynolds suggested that the name of Cornplanter be changed to one he had worked out,

and forthwith the robust infant was tagged OIL CITY.

"These events, detailed somewhat minutely because of their influence in shaping the industry, indicate partially the extent and quality of the grandest stretch of scenic ravine in William Penn's grand heritage.

"George H. Bissell, honorably identified with the petroleum development from its inception, was born in New Hampshire. Thrown upon his own resources at twelve by the death of his father, he gained education and fortune unaided. At school and college he supported himself by teaching and writing for magazines. Graduating from Dartmouth College in 1845, he was professor of Greek and Latin in Norwich University a short time, went to Washington and Cuba, did editorial work on the New Orleans *Delta* and was chosen superintendent of the public schools. Impaired health forced him to return North in 1853, when his connection with petroleum began. From 1859 to 1863 he resided at Franklin, to be near his oil interests and barrel factory. He operated largely on Oil creek, on the Allegheny river and at Franklin. He removed to New York in 1863, established the Bissell Bank at Petroleum Center in 1866, developed oil lands in Peru, and was prominent in financial circles. His wife died in 1867 and he followed her to the tomb on Nov. 19, 1884. Mr. Bissell was a brilliant, scholarly man, positive in his convictions and sure to make his influence felt in any community. His son and daughter reside in New York.

"The new town at the mouth of Oil creek advanced by leaps and bounds, all oil coming down Oil creek or the Allegheny river having to pass through Oil City. An endless cavalcade of wagons hauled crude to the warehouses and wharves on the west bank, for shipment to Pittsburgh. People huddled in shanties and lived on barges moored to the shore. Derricks peered up behind the houses, thronged the marshy flats, congregated on the slopes, climbed the precipitous bluffs and clung to the rocky ledges. Houses, shops, hotels and saloons hung against the sides of the western 'hogback' or sat loosely on heaps of earth by the two streams. A borough was organized, W. R. Johns launched the *Weekly Register* in 1862, and the *Derrick* made its debut in 1871. To-day Oil City has miles of paved streets and fine residences, acres of brick blocks and factories, trunk railroads and trolleys, every modern improvement, and twenty thousand of the cleverest people under the blue canopy.

"On the south side of the river William Phillips, who freighted on the Ohio and Allegheny, keeling his last trip from Warren to Pittsburgh in September of 1859, noticed a scum of oil in front of Thomas Downing's farm, leased the land, erected a pole derrick and started a well at the water's edge. Difficulties retarded the work nine months, but June, 1860, saw the Albion well completed and pumping forty barrels a day, causing a stir. The ferry worked overtime to catch up with the traffic, wells were hurried down, lots found eager buyers, Franklin bankers bought adjacent farms, William L. Lay laid out Laytonia, Downington and Venango City budded, and at last the varied fractions merged into South Oil City, the delightful residence division of 'The Hub of Oildom.' The territory was reasonably fertile and abiding. Three wells near the carbarns, drilled in 1866, with hoary comrades on both banks of the river and up Halyday run, are still yielding their mite. On Sage run, in 1872, Mrs. Sands hit a one hundred-barreler, none in the vicinity or at Pinoak, Salem or Salina equaling it until Finley Gates duplicated the spouter last year.

"Down the Allegheny three miles, on a gentle slope facing bold hills across the river, Reno arose, named in honor of the gallant general who, classmate at West Point of George B. McClellan and 'Stonewall' Jackson, attained higher military rank than any other of the heroes Venango county 'contributed to the death-roll of patriotism.' The Reno Oil Company, organized in 1861 by Charles Vernon Culver, to whose faculty for developing large enterprises the oil regions presented an alluring field, purchased one thousand two hundred acres and drilled rows of pumping wells along the river, the coarse, pebbly sand yielding oil of approved gravity at five hundred to six hundred feet. A chain of banks established at Franklin, Oil City, Titusville and outside cities was managed by the New York office of Culver, Penn & Co., which directed the investment and employment of \$15,000,000 in the spring of 1865. People begged Culver to handle their funds, elected him to Congress and took stock in whatever project he indorsed. For several years everything worked smoothly, the town growing swiftly, its 'Folger House' packed with tireless guests, a daily paper in the race and a thousand buoyant citizens tuned to concert pitch. The Reno Company decided to build a railroad to Rouseville and Pithole to divert from Oil City the trade of Oil creek and Cherry run. Oil City refused the road the right-of-way, compelling the choice of a cir-

citous route, with Alpine peaks to climb and deep ravines to span. A consolidation of competing interests was arranged and Mr. Culver was in Washington concluding the agreement when rumors affecting his banks were whispered. Floods, the close of the war, the collapse of Pithole and the amazing check to speculation impaired confidence in oil values, forcing the Culver interests to the wall on March 27, 1866. The fabric reared with infinite pains toppled, assets were sacrificed, and the Reno, Oil Creek & Pithole railroad, within a week of completion, crumbled into ruin. The architect of the great plans thenceforth devoted his life to the payment of claims against the firm and died in 1909. The Reno Company, reorganized in behalf of its creditors, reaped liberal profits and operated in Forest county, under the presidency of Galusha A. Grow, Speaker of Congress, afterward, whom J. H. Osmer, of Franklin, succeeded. A well in May, 1870, pumped two hundred barrels and threescore others, garnered in 1870-71, were close seconds. The wells and iron tanks have given place to a big refinery and other industries. The natty suburb boasts two railroads, a fine school, a church, trolley line to Franklin and Oil City, wide streets, a country club and golfing ground, dainty homes, abundant scenery and all the elements of vitality and movement.

#### LUBRICATING OIL MANIFESTS ITSELF

"James Evans, a blacksmith, had lived for two decades on the south bank of French creek, at Franklin, near a 'spring' from which Marcus Hulings, who ferried folks across the unbridged stream in a bark canoe and plied a keelboat to Pittsburgh, skimmed a quart or two of 'earth oil' each summer for liniment and medicine, by hemming in a rod of the creek that drowned him in 1813. A well Evans dug seventeen feet for water smelt and tasted of petroleum in dry weather. An early visit to the Drake strike determined him to sink his water well. He fashioned rough drilling tools, rigged a spring-pole and met a crevice at seventy-two feet. The tools dropped, breaking off a chunk of iron which refused to be fished out. Father and sons tubed the hole and pumped by hand. Anon a dark-green fluid gushed out at the rate of twenty-five barrels a day, about  $31^{\circ}$  gravity, free from grit and smooth as silk, the greatest lubricator in the universe, 'Franklin Heavy Oil.' Somebody shouted the glad tidings and everybody speeded to the well. November court adjourned in

short metre, hatless men and aproned women rushed to the scene, babies cried, children screamed, dogs barked, a church bell rang and two horses ran away. It was a red-letter forenoon in the annals of the placid county seat. That evening a young lawyer called at the Evans domicile, a daughter of the lucky smith greeting him at the door and saying jokingly: 'Dad's struck ile!' The expression caught the town, making a bigger hit than the well itself, printed everywhere, and booked for immortality. Sufficient oil, sold at \$30 a barrel, was pumped to install steam power, increasing the grist to seventy barrels. Frederick Prentice, straight from Toledo, bid \$40,000 for the well and lot and the same week an offer of \$200,000 was likewise rejected, the owner sticking to the prize package, which declined to eight or ten barrels in six months. The price of oil shrank correspondingly, but Evans realized a competence, living some years to enjoy it quietly. Moseley & Co., of Philadelphia, leased the well. It stood idle, the engine was taken away, the rig tumbled and the hole filled up with dirt and wreckage. Prices spurted and it was hitched to a pumping rig operating others. Capt. S. A. Hull ran a group of the wells on the flats and a dozen three miles down the Allegheny. His death in 1893 resulted in dismantling most of these wells, hardly a vestige remaining to tell that the Evans and its neighbors ever existed.

"The Franklin Oil & Mining Company, the first chartered while Evans was juggling the tools, drilled a well a few rods below on Oct. 5th, finding oil at two hundred and forty feet on Jan. 12, 1860. It pumped about half as much as the Evans for months and did not die of old age, its forty-two shares of stock advancing tenfold in a week. The company sank three others and dissolved. In February, 1860, Caldwell & Co., a block southeast of Evans, finished a paying well at two hundred feet. The Farmers' and Mechanics' Company drilled a medium producer at the foot of High street, on the bank of the creek. Numerous companies and individuals pushed work in the spring. Holes were sunk in front yards, gardens and water wells. Franklin was the objective point of immense crowds. The Mammoth, the first spouter, flowed one hundred barrels and intensified the excitement. Twenty-two wells were drilling and as many producing on July 1st. Farms for miles up French creek had been bought at high prices and the noise of the drill burdened the summer air. Sugar creek, emptying into French creek three miles west of Franklin, shared in the activity, and

the county farm is not yet out of the running. Prices 'came down like a thousand of brick.' Pumping was expensive, lands were scarce and dear, hauling the oil to a railroad cost half its value, and hosts of small wells were abandoned. On Nov. 1st, within the borough limits, fifteen were yielding one hundred and forty barrels. Curtz & Strain had bored five hundred feet in October, the deepest in the neighborhood, without finding additional oil-bearing rock. 'Point Hill,' across French creek from the Evans well, went begging for a purchaser at \$1,500. At its southern base were profitable wells, but nobody dreamed of boring through the steep 'Point,' which Dr. A. G. Egbert and Col. James Bleakley bought at a nominal price, pocketing a keg of cash from royalties. The first well far up the ascent whetted the appetite for more, the basis of a dozen clean fortunes. Operations scaled the hills and invaded Sugar Creek township. The Lamberton and McCalmont farms, the site of Rocky Grove, and the Galloway, were riddled with holes, enlarging the borders of the pool. A streak of black oil appeared on Two-Mile run, kin to that found in 1870 a mile beyond Hannaville, the northwest edge of the lubricating field. Cooperstown tests responded too feebly to stand alone, a detached pool at Sugar Lake doled out tiny pumbers. Utica was not quite within the circle, and the production dropped from one hundred and thirty thousand barrels in 1875 to eighty-eight thousand barrels in 1877, to seventy thousand in 1878 and to sixty thousand in 1883, from one thousand three hundred and fifty wells, many times the present totals. The price of crude has stayed at \$4 a barrel for a quarter-century.

"Taft & Payn laid a pipe line to the river in 1870, extended it to Galloway in 1872 and combined with the Franklin line in 1878. The principal manufacturer of lubricants is the world-famed Galena-Signal Oil Company, developed by Gen. Charles Miller from a miniature plant in 1869, near the Evans well, to the magnificent works in the Third ward, seven acres of buildings and storage tanks. Every appliance that skill and money can secure has been provided, ensuring the uniform grades of oils with unerring precision and supplying 98 per cent. of the railroad mileage of the United States and Canada, besides leading roads in Europe, an unapproachable record. The company also manufactures valve and signal oils, perfected by Joseph C. Sibley and in constant use on practically every railway beneath the Stars and Stripes. Oil transformed

Franklin from a drowsy hamlet into America's most attractive hive of ten thousand busy bees, its industrial per capita leading the whole world in value and tonnage.

#### DOWN THE WINDING ALLEGHENY

"Starting with the Albion well at South Oil City, Cranberry township revealed the productive Milton field, back of the hills sheltering Reno, with a vigorous offshoot at Bredensburg and nibbles at intervals, not omitting the environs of Monarch Park, Deep Hollow, the Dale lands, and specks between Prentice and Cochran. The first well on the Cochran farm, two miles below Franklin, started to flow one hundred barrels a day in February, 1860, from the second sand, the oil bringing \$14 at the tank. Eighty wells on the tract, a score of them now pumping, were remunerative. Brandon, Tarkiln, Ten-Mile Bottom and Hill City had fair innings. A mile up East Sandy creek, separating Cranberry and Rockland, a well sunk in 1864 exuded gas, caught fire and blazed seven years. Patrick Canning and E. E. Wightman drilled five good wells in 1871 and Gas City vaporized and flickered out. Here and there in the interior of Rockland small pools appeared and small wells are yet pumping, the 'burning well' and a number around Pittsville and Freedom having passed into oblivion. The McMillan and ninety-nine companions headed a paying list, and Gregory, an ephemeral town, toddled into the limelight. Back a half-mile the territory was tricky, wells that showed for genuine strikes sometimes falling flat. The wells retired from business, the depot burned, and Kennerdell Station was substituted, a mile northward. Nickleville pool and a bunch of commonplace wells at Emleton, up Ritchey run and at Agnew's Mills, summed up Richland's allotment, Pinegrove staying in the rear.

"The Hoover well, the first south of Franklin, in Sandy Creek township, flowed one hundred barrels from the second sand on Dec. 21, 1859, a pretty Christmas surprise. The Drake was for light, the Evans for grease and the Hoover combined the two in part, producing for four years, and additional wells keeping up a generous yield. Fifteen of the first sixteen wells at Foster gladdened the hearts of the owners. Angell & Prentice brought Bully Hill and Mount Hope to the front, their finest entry a two hundred-barreler, and George V. Forman counted out \$150,000 for a slice of the territory. Considerable drilling at Polk

proved of little account. Raymilton yielded enough to warrant a small refinery and a pipe line to connect at Hilliard's Mills with the Butler system. C. D. Angell leased blocks of land from Foster to Scrubgrass in 1870-71, and numerous wells tended to confirm his 'belt theory.' Sixty farmers joined forces in 1859 to sink the first well in Scrubgrass township, on the Rhodaburger farm, punched it six hundred feet, declined to pay further assessments, and spilled the community of interest. The first productive well was Aaron Kepler's on the Russell farm, in 1863, and John Crawford's farm had the largest of the early trials. On the Witherup farm, at the mouth of Scrubgrass creek, paying wells were drilled in 1867 and Andrew Rapp rang in a three hundred-barrel gusher forty-five years later. Skirmishing was done without startling results. The first drilling in Clinton township was on the Kennerdell property, two miles west of the Allegheny, the Big Bend Oil Company sinking a dry hole in 1864-5. Jonathan Watson bored two in 1871, finding traces of oil in a thin layer of sand. On Aug. 9, 1876, John Taylor and Robert Cundle finished a two hundred-barrel spouter on the George W. Gealy farm, two miles north of Kennerdell. They sold to Phillips Brothers, who were drilling on neighboring farms. The new strike opened the Bullion field, toward which the current turned forthwith. Wells from one hundred to one thousand barrels were in order. Mitchell & Lee's Big Injun, the mogul of them all, flowed three thousand one hundred barrels on June 18, 1877, and Franklinites drilled the driest kind of a hole eight rods away. The Bullion field extended seven miles in length and a scant mile in width, swerving the tide from Bradford and ruling the petroleum roost for over a year. Summit City, on the Simcox farm, Beringer City and Dean City flourished during the furore. Summit's first house was built on Dec. 8, 1876; in June, 1877, the town polled two hundred buildings and one thousand five hundred people; Abram Myers, its last resident, departed in April, 1889. The Bullion-Clinton district is now producing about four thousand barrels a month. Four hundred wells in the Bessmer field, Mercer county, pump a couple hundred barrels of light oil, adapted particularly to gasoline, and Leesburg has a detached pool of dark complexion and slight dimensions. Lawrence county's seepages had small substance, Slippery Rock failing to back up its 'copious indications' when the drill sampled the supposed territory.

## PITHOLE AND PLEASANTVILLE APPEAR

"The Evans and Hoover wells at Franklin confirmed the view of men who did not believe the petroleum sun was doomed to rise and set on Oil creek. Operators ventured up the ravines, ascended the hills and began to take chances miles away. The largest of twenty-five or thirty wells drilled around Walnut Bend, in President township, six miles up the river from Oil City, in 1860-65, was rated at two hundred barrels. Four miles farther, two miles northeast of the mouth of Pithole creek, Henry's Bend perpetuates the name of a pioneer. The farm opposite, at the crown of the bend, Heydrick Brothers, of French Creek township, leased in the fall of 1859. Jesse Heydrick organized the Wolverine Oil Company, the second ever formed to drill for petroleum. Thirty shares of stock constituted its capital of \$10,500. The first well, one hundred and sixty feet deep, pumped ten barrels a day. The second, also sunk in 1860, at three hundred feet flowed one thousand five hundred barrels. Beside this giant the Drake was a midget, the production of the Heydrick spouter doubling that of all the others in the region put together. The oil was run into a piece of low ground and formed a pond through which yawl-boats were rowed fifty rods. By this means seven hundred barrels a day could be saved. Drawing the tubing decreased the yield and rendered pumping necessary. The well flowed and pumped about one hundred thousand barrels, doing eighty a day in 1864-65, when the oldest producer in Venango county. It was a celebrity in its time and immensely profitable, one cargo boated to Pittsburgh one Christmas week selling at \$13, three days before a thaw cleared the ice and glutted the market at \$1.50. Wolverine shares climbed out of sight, Mr. Heydrick buying them in at from \$4,000 to \$15,000 each, to sell the larger portion on the basis of \$1,500,000 for the farm and seventy wells the brothers, styled 'The Big Four,' drilled on the property. Edwin E. Clapp refused to sell, lease or operate his six thousand acres in the same township, ultimately letting Kahle Brothers drill on two hundred acres that yielded unstintedly. Hussey & McBride had a large production on the Henry farm in 1860-61, begetting Henryville, of whose houses, hotels, stores and shipping platform no scrap survives. C. Curtiss bought the McCrea tract of four hundred acres in 1861 and started the Eagle Oil Company of Philadelphia, which drilled many fair wells, the town of Eagle Rock rising to the dignity of three hundred buildings and taking the ordinary tumble.

"Nervy men invaded the northeastern quarter of Cornplanter township, tying up lands along Pithole creek, a tributary of the Allegheny at Oleopolis, three miles below Eagle Rock. An Oleopolis well struck a vein of gas, which ignited and flamed high, enveloping the derrick and scorching the bewildered driller, who yelled to his employer: 'Boss, jump into the river; I've knocked the bung out and hell's spilling over!' I. N. Frazer organized the United States Oil Company, leased part of the Holmden farm, seven miles up the creek, and started a well in the fall of 1864. At six hundred feet the 'sixth sand' was punctured. Ten feet farther, on Jan. 7, 1865, the torrent broke loose, the well flowing six hundred and fifty barrels a day and ceasing finally on Nov. 10th. Kilgore & Keenan's Twin wells, good for eight hundred barrels, were finished on Jan. 17th and 19th. Unfathomable mud and disastrous floods held back the hegira from other sections, only to intensify the excitement when it found vent. Duncan & Prather bought Holmden's land for \$25,000 and divided the flats and slopes into half-acre leases. The first of May witnessed a small clearing in the forest, with three oil wells, one drilling well and three houses. Three months later the world gasped to hear of a city of sixteen thousand inhabitants, possessing most of the conveniences and luxuries of the largest and oldest communities. Capitalists eager to invest their greenbacks thronged to the scene. Labor and produce commanded extravagant figures, and every farm for miles was leased or bought at fabulous rates. New strikes perpetually inflated the mania. The Homestead well in June was a gusher; the Deshler, on Aug. 1st, started at one hundred barrels; the Grant, on Aug. 2d, at four hundred and fifty barrels; the Poole, on Aug. 28th, at eight hundred barrels; the Ogden, on Sept. 5th, at one hundred barrels; the Poole & Perne, on Sept. 15th, at four hundred barrels, and the latter increased to eight hundred barrels, the Grant likewise mounting to seven hundred barrels. Speculators roamed far and wide in quest of the subterranean wealth that promised to outrival the golden measures of California or the silver lodes of Nevada. The value of oil lands was reckoned by millions. Small interests in single wells brought hundreds of thousands of dollars. Hosts of adventurers sought the new Oil Dorado and the stocks of countless 'petroleum companies' were scattered broadcast over Europe and America. For the Holmden farm and wells,

daily producing five thousand barrels of seven-dollar crude and seventy drilling under lease, Chicagoans paid \$1,600,000 in the fall of 1865. James Rooker received \$280,000 for his one hundred acres south of the Holmden, the buyers promptly disposing of ninety leases for \$400,000 in bonuses and half the oil. A neighbor refused \$800,000 for his barren acres. 'I don't keer ter hev my buckwheat tramped over,' he explained, 'but youse kin hev th' farm next winter for a mill-yun!' He kept the farm, reaped his crop, and was not disturbed until lodged in a plot six feet by two.

"Pithole post office ranked third in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh alone excelling it. There were sixty hotels; theaters, saloons, gambling dens and questionable resorts were counted by the score, two churches and schools denoting the moral sentiment. A fire department was organized, a daily paper printed and a mayor elected. The Swords-men's Club enjoyed a national reputation for hospitality and good cheer. Railways to Reno and Oleopolis were nearly completed before 'the beginning of the end' came with terrible swiftness. Fire wiped out the 'Tremont Hotel' and adjoining houses in February of 1866. Eighty buildings went up in smoke on May 1st and June 13th, and thirty wells and twenty thousand barrels of oil in August. Wells declined seriously in November and December, and the laying of pipe lines to Miller Farm and Oleopolis in one week drove one thousand five hundred teams to seek work elsewhere. The finest buildings were torn down to serve at Pleasantville and Oil City. The disappearance of Pithole was not less surprising than its unprecedented growth. In 1876 six voters remained, and now a dilapidated tenement, a deserted church and traces of streets and cellars are lonely relics of 'The Magic City.'

"'Spirits' inspired four good wells at Pithole. One dry hole, a mile southeast of town, seriously depressed stock in their skill as 'oil-smellers.' A disciple of the Fox sisters, assured of 'a big well,' drilled two hundred feet below the sixth sand in search of oil-bearing rock. He drilled himself into debt, and the sheriff, whom nobody could mistake for an ethereal being, sold the outfit at junk prices. North of Pithole the tide surged into Allegheny township, the western half of which was set off as Oil Creek township. Balltown, a meadow on C. M. Ball's farm, in July, 1865, at the end of the year paraded stores, one hundred dwellings and one thousand people. Fires in 1866 singed it and waning production did

the rest. Dawson Center, on the Sawyer tract, bloomed, frosted and perished. Eight miles northeast of Titusville, where Godfrey Hill drilled a duster in 1860, and two companies drilled six, the Colorado district finally rewarded gritty operators. Small wells benefited Enterprise and the country down Pithole creek to its junction with the river was jabbed full of holes that weighed as dust in the balance.

"Three wells on the outskirts of Pleasantville produced a trifling amount of oil in 1865-66. Late in the fall of 1867 Abram James, driving with three friends from Pithole to Titusville, claimed his 'spirit guide' assumed control, hurried him to the northern end of a field on the William Porter farm and hinted that streams of oil lay beneath and extended in a certain direction. He thrust a penny into the dirt, negotiated a lease, borrowed money to drill and on Feb. 12, 1868, at eight hundred and fifty feet, Harmonial well No. 1 pumped one hundred and thirty barrels of dark oil. The usual hurly-burly ensued. People who voted the James adventure a fish-story writhed and twisted to drill near the spirited Harmonial. New strikes increased the hub-bub, lands bringing \$500 to \$5,000 an acre and often changing hands. The production reached three thousand barrels in the summer of 1868, dropping to one thousand five hundred in 1870. Three banks prospered and imposing brick blocks succeeded unsubstantial frames. Fresh pastures invited the floating mass to Clarion, Armstrong and Butler. Wells were abandoned, machinery was shipped southward and the pretty village moved backward gracefully. James located eight or ten 'spirit' wells that added to his wealth, but a dry hole on the Clarion river one thousand eight hundred feet deep, cost him \$6,000 in 1874 and lost him much of his distinction.

"In 1870 John D. Rockefeller and his partners in a Cleveland refinery organized the Standard Oil Company of Ohio, with \$1,000,000 capital, increased to \$2,500,000 in 1872 and to \$3,500,000 in 1873, when other interests were acquired. For years refining had been mainly disastrous, bankrupting many engaged in it. A Standard Oil Company had been organized in Pittsburgh and was doing a large business. The Cleveland Standard Refinery, the Pittsburgh Standard Refinery, the Atlantic Refining Company of Philadelphia and Charles Pratt & Co. of New York were important. Because of the hazardous nature and peculiar conditions of the industry, the need of improved methods and the manifold advantages of combination, they entered into an al-

liance for their mutual benefit. Refineries in the oil regions had combined before, hence the association was not a novelty. The cost of transportation and packages had been crippling the industry. Railroad rates were excessive and irregular. Refiners who could throw a large volume of business to any particular road secured favorable rates. The rebate-system was universal, not confined to oil alone, and possibly this fact had much to do with the combination of refiners afterward known as the Standard Oil Company.

"The Standard furnished, loaded and unloaded its own tank cars, thereby eliminating barrels and materially cheapening the freight service. This reduced the price of refined in the East to a figure which greatly increased the demand and gave operations a healthy stimulus. Still more important was the introduction of improvements in refining, which yielded a larger percentage of illuminant and converted the residue into merchantable products. Chemical and mechanical experts, employed by the combined companies to conduct experiments, aided in devising processes which revolutionized refining. The highest quality of burning oil was obtained and nearly every particle of crude was utilized. Substances of commercial value took the place of the waste that formerly emptied into the streams, polluting the waters and the atmosphere. In this way the cost was so lessened that kerosene became the light of the nations. That smaller concerns were unable to compete under such circumstances was no reason why the public should be deprived of the advantages resulting from concentration of capital and effort. Many of these, realizing that small capital is restricted to poor methods and dear production, either sold to the Standard or entered the combination. In not a few cases wide-awake refiners took stock for part of the price of their properties and engaged with the company, adding their talents and experience to the common fund for the benefit of all concerned. Others, not strong enough to have their cars and provide all the latest improvements, made such changes as they could afford to meet the requirements of the local trade, letting the larger ones attend to distant markets. Some continued right along and they are still independent refiners, always a respectable factor in the trade and never more active than to-day.

"On Jan. 2, 1881, the forty Standard shareholders, owning the entire capital of fifteen corporations and controlling a number of oth-

ers, vested all these stocks in nine trustees, who issued certificates and agreed to manage the affairs of each company in the interest of the whole. This was the inception of the Standard Oil Trust, designed to facilitate the conduct of contributory agencies by uniting them under one board of trustees. The Trust continued ten years, assailed viciously by ignorance and prejudice, but managed admirably until liquidated in 1892-97. Each corporation was managed as though entirely independent of every other in the Trust, except the rivalry to show the best results. Many of the most skillful refiners and producers joined the combination and were retained to superintend their properties. The Standard Oil Company of New York was reincorporated on June 14, 1899, to purchase the stocks of various companies previously held by the liquidating trustees. On Nov. 15, 1906, the government brought suit in the United States court at St. Louis to dissolve the New Jersey Company, as a combination in restraint of trade. The court on Nov. 20th granted the petition and the Supreme court in 1910 affirmed the decision, ordering the dissolution of the company and the distribution of the stocks of thirty-three subsidiary companies to the shareholders within six months. The decision of the Supreme court was distinguished by its emphasis of the 'rule of reason' in dealing with cases under the Sherman Anti-Trust Law of 1890.

"Seventeen independent refiners of Pennsylvania crude organized The National Petroleum Association in 1902, first meeting in Pittsburgh on June 17, 'to create a permanent social and co-operative feeling between refiners of petroleum and its products throughout the United States, to remove by concerted action any evils and customs that are against good policy and sound business principles, to correct existing abuses and secure the enactment of wise and uniform State inspection laws, the operation of which may be equally fair to all and which may accomplish the ends designed, and to prevent unjust discrimination and that all grievances may be fairly and equitably adjusted.' The membership now includes nearly all the refiners outside of the 'Standard Oil Group' in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and Illinois, and some in Kansas and Oklahoma. Five refineries at or near Oil City, three at Titusville, eight at Warren, two at North Clarendon, two at Bradford, four at Pittsburgh, four at Cleveland, two at Philadelphia, three at Chicago and others in differ-

ent States are represented, the Western Petroleum Refiners Association likewise comprising an influential membership.

#### OIL EXCHANGES ENTER AND EXIT

"Pipe line certificates afforded an excellent medium for speculation, owing to violent fluctuations in prices of the commodity they represented. Oil exchanges were established at Oil City, Titusville, Parker, Bradford, Pittsburgh, New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere. Bulls and bears reveled in excitement, brokers had customers in every quarter of the country, and the clearances in one year exceeded eleven billion barrels. The herald of these institutions was 'The Curbstone Exchange' at Oil City in 1870, in front of Lockhart, Frew & Co.'s office, Center street, near the railroad track. Producers, dealers and speculators would congregate on the sidewalks, discuss the situation, swap stories and buy or sell oil. Trades were made in offices, at wells, on streets, anywhere and everywhere. Purchasers for Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Philadelphia refiners started brokerage in 1868, on a commission of ten cents a barrel from buyers and five from sellers. The Farmers' railroad, completed to Oil City in 1867, brought so many operators to town that a car was assigned them, in which they bought and sold 'spot,' 'regular' and 'future oil.' There were no certificates, no written obligations, no margins to bind a bargain, but everything was done on honor and no man's word was broken. 'Spot oil' was to be moved and paid for at once, 'regular' allowed the buyer ten days to put the oil on the cars, and 'future' was taken as agreed upon mutually. Large lots frequently changed hands in this car, really the first oil exchange. The business increased, an exchange on wheels had manifest disadvantages, and in December of 1869 it was decided to effect a permanent organization. Officers were elected and a room was rented on Center street. It removed to the Sands block in 1871, to the Opera House block in January of 1872 and to a temporary shed in the fall, when South Improvement complications dissolved the organization. For about fifteen months hotels, streets, or offices sufficed for accommodations. In February of 1864 the exchange was reorganized, with George V. Forman as president, and occupied quarters in the 'Collins House' four years. Gradually rules were adopted and methods introduced that brought about the system afterward in vogue. In April of 1878 the formal opening of the splendid Oil Ex-

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change building took place. The structure contained offices, committee rooms, telegraph lines, reading rooms and all conveniences for its members. F. W. Mitchell & Co. inaugurated the advancing of money on certificates, their bank's transactions in this line ranging from one to four million dollars a day. The application of the clearing-house system in 1882 simplified the routine and facilitated deliveries. The volume of business was immense, the clearances often amounting to ten or fifteen million barrels a day. Only the New York and the San Francisco stock exchanges surpassed it. During fluctuations the galleries would be packed with men and women who had 'taken a flyer' and watched the antics of the bulls and bears intently. Fortunes were gained and lost. Many a 'lamb' was shorn and many a 'duck' lamed. It was a raging fever, a delirium of excitement, compressing years of ordinary anxiety and haste into a week. Now the exchange is a theater and speculative trade in oil is dead."

The following account of the Oil City Exchange, by Maj. J. M. Reed, of Oil City, is appropriately introduced here:

"THE OIL EXCHANGE is the perfection of petroleum transfers which began with its sale as a crude medicine by the Indians and pioneers of Venango county. The real traffic began in August, 1859, by buying at the wells when the price was twenty dollars a barrel. The stupendous production of 1860-61, before an unformed demand, brought it down to ten cents a barrel in January, 1862, and for several years, until the foreign demand was created and the business systematized, prices were subject to frequent and formidable fluctuations. This of course was a flame that attracted fierce speculation, and the oil dealer became as much of a fixture as the lumber dealer.

"For the first five years the dealer or speculator bought the oil at the well, in the barrel, on the boat, in bulk, at the wharves, in the warehouses up and down the river and Oil creek, anywhere, but chiefly at the warehouses in the Third ward. Any change in the New York market was the signal for the oil dealer to race up the creek on horseback to buy up or unload as his interest dictated, and often the result was heavy loss. Then the oil exchange was on horseback; this was so until 1867, at the completion of the Oil Creek and Farmers' railroads between Oil City and Titusville, the right of way for which was only obtained on condition that every oil farm should have a depot at which passenger trains should stop.

Then the passenger cars became the exchange, but very soon a special oil men's car was secured to run independently of passenger trains. For two or three years this car was the scene of transactions involving millions, and the bulls and bears were quite as excitable on wheels as in their later quarters.

"Telegraph and better transportation made it unnecessary to go out of the city by 1869, and in December of that year a meeting was held in Owston & Sower's office for the first organization of an exchange. In 1870 room was secured in the Atlantic & Pacific Telegraph Company's office, at the railroad crossing on Center street, but as these quarters were too small a room was fitted up in the Sands block, now the "Central Hotel." This was burned in January, 1872, and a room in the opera house was used, together with summer quarters in a shed erected near the Empire Line offices, now the *Blizzard* office. In 1873 several causes combined to prevent the continuance of the organization, notably the South Improvement Company excitement.

"Feb. 4, 1874, a meeting was held at the 'Collins House,' William Hasson, chairman, and J. T. Leech, secretary, and fifty-five persons organized the Oil City Oil Exchange with George V. Forman, president; A. J. Greenfield, vice president; J. T. Leech, secretary; John Mawhinney, treasurer. They secured rooms in the 'Collins House' and on April 29th following were regularly incorporated by a State charter. They began with the old rules, and discipline and system were slowly adopted. At first business began any time and closed any time, but the rules were constantly revised and improved, so that in a short time this exchange controlled the markets of the world.

"In 1877 a new building was agitated and a building committee appointed, composed of Messrs. William Hasson, A. J. Greenfield, William Parker and John Mawhinney. The site chosen was the block facing east on Seneca, between Center and Sycamore streets, and the work was begun in July under the personal supervision of Architect J. M. Budge, of Meadville, who had planned the Derrick block; the contract was let to Carpenter & Company of Meadville, the building alone to cost sixty-five thousand dollars. A fine brick, sixty by one hundred feet, and three stories above the basement, slowly arose and was completed April 20, 1878, ready for the grand opening on the 23d. This was a great day for Oil City, and the galleried exchange room, with its bull-ring directly under the dome, and its surrounding

telegraph offices and rooms, were crowded even to overflow through the main entrance opening on Center, Seneca and Sycamore streets, to listen to the speeches of President Greenfield and others. At two o'clock in the afternoon the clang of the bell let loose the well known pandemonium of the first trades, among which were the following: J. J. Fisher, one thousand barrels at \$1.27½, to C. W. McClintock; S. Ames, one thousand, at the same, to Frank Mitchell; G. S. Morgan, one thousand, at the same, to J. H. Dixon; and H. V. Sikes, one thousand at \$1.28½, to A. Kelly. Before closing 145,000 barrels were sold, ranging from \$1.26⅔ to \$1.29⅓, and all opened well for the exchange, which was then the third in the United States and the first in the oil trade, with a membership of three hundred.

"The chief improvements afterward added were the opening of a clearing house Oct. 17, 1882, under the management of J. M. Reed, the clearings for which in 1885 aggregated \$1,433,738,000, and the erection of an annex in 1883 almost equal in size to the original building, and supplying parlors, smoking rooms, offices, etc. The entire cost of the whole enterprise has amounted to nearly \$100,000. The membership now embraces about one hundred and forty, about twenty-five of whom, it is estimated, are brokers. The officers have been as follows:

"1874—George V. Forman, president; A. J. Greenfield, vice president; J. T. Leech, secretary; and John Mawhinney, treasurer.

"In 1875 P. H. Judd became secretary, and in 1876 J. M. McElroy was chosen vice president.

"1877—A. J. Greenfield, president; H. L. Foster, vice president; J. B. Smithman, secretary; and John Mawhinney, treasurer.

"1878—Only change J. T. Jones, vice president, and C. P. Stephenson, secretary.

"1879—H. L. Foster, president; C. N. Payne, vice president; H. L. McCance, secretary, John Mawhinney, treasurer.

"1880—T. A. McLaughlin became vice president.

"1881—No changes.

"1882—T. A. McLaughlin, president; W. D. Archbold, vice president; O. C. Sherman, treasurer, and H. L. McCance, secretary.

"1883—H. L. Foster, president; George Heard, vice president; R. T. Leech, secretary; O. C. Sherman, treasurer.

"1884—I. M. Sowers became vice president.

"1885—W. H. Choate, treasurer.

"1886—W. W. Nicholas, vice president.

"Present officials are: E. V. D. Selden, president; J. M. Reed, vice president; W. H. Wise, secretary and treasurer.

"A whirl of business in 1895 carried the price of oil up to \$2.70 per barrel, and during three or four months of extreme activity the bulk of the oil extant was absorbed by large interests, the business gradually subsiding until only a nominal market was maintained. The last trade in the public market of the Oil Exchange was made in 1904. A few years later, 1908, the real estate of the corporation was sold and the proceeds distributed to the stockholders, leaving a small fund for maintenance of the organization, which retained a room for ten years by agreement of sale. This ten years expires Dec. 31, 1918, and it is probable that the affairs of the corporation will be wound up and charter surrendered, thus ending the career of the first oil exchange in existence."

The Oil City *Derrick* of Thursday morning, Dec. 5, 1918, contained an interesting "tribute" to the Oil City Oil Exchange by a veteran member, Mr. J. J. McLaurin, of Oil City, which we reprint with permission:

#### THE OIL CITY OIL EXCHANGE

A THANKSGIVING TRIBUTE ON MY BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY TO THE TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE FAMOUS ORGANIZATION WHEN THE BUILDING WAS ERECTED IN 1877-8, NINE TENTHS OF THEM MY PERSONAL FRIENDS, THE MAJORITY NOW DEAD AND MOST OF THE GALAXY NAMED IN THE STANZAS, WHICH ARE DEDICATED WITH BEST WISHES TO THE SURVIVORS.

BY JOHN J. MC LAURIN

From a shallow hole on Oil Creek pour'd a tiny greenish stream,  
Of developments the basis far surpassing Pharaoh's dream;  
Fifty-nine years have departed since the pregnant August morn  
That Drake's well hit viscid fluid and oil industry was born;  
Nations sat up and took notice of the wonderful fresh birth  
Speedily to distance cotton, light and heat and grease the earth.

Difficulties at the outset block'd the operator's path,  
Boats and wagons freighting barrels meant profanity and wrath;  
With unfathomable quagmires and no car-wheels to revolve,  
How to get the stuff to market was a problem hard to solve,

Till the pipe-lines furnish'd transport at the minimum cost,  
Relegating primal methods to the realm of labor lost.

Laying ground for bigger business, the Oil City Oil Exchange  
Was established to give dealings in certificates free range;  
Men of character and capital were leaders in the move  
That soon put petroleum trades and traders in the upper groove—  
Men who saw a broader vision, estimated to an inch  
What would meet the situation and relieve the stringent pinch.

Proper officers were needed to ensure a proper start:  
President was George V. Forman, master of the pipe-line art,  
Tactful, competent, resourceful, foremost spirit of his peers—  
Greenfield, Tom McLaughlin, Foster, Selden came in later years;  
R. T. Leech was Secretary—neither mind nor physique small;  
Treasurer, bluff John Mawhinney, fit like paper on the wall.

Leech H. L. McCance succeeded—Thomas Nast of Oildom he,  
Clever, capable cartoonist of the thirty-third degree;  
Smithman, Fairchild had a flyer and McClintock took the place,  
Overseeing all departments with rare diligence and grace;  
Linking courtesy and frankness, caring less for fads and cults  
Than for practical attainments, all were experts on results.

You recall, 'mong early members of the era long gone by,  
Allen, Avery, Tom Adams, Austin, Ames, Crouch, Charlie Bly,  
Arnold, Barrow, Beaumonts, Boultons, Bonham, Bumstead, Ossenbeck,  
Bradley, Brocklehurst, Clotworthy, Dave Davinney, George Banvleck,  
Ash, Brown, Cochran, Culver, Graham, Tom Carruthers, John R. Drum,  
T. B. Porteous, Al Williams, Charlie Shepherd, Charlie Thumm?

Also Babcock, James B. Berry, Bolard, Dixon, Doubleday,  
Cary, Cornwall, Criswell, Cooper, Diman, Hotchkiss, E. B. Gray,  
Haldeman, John Gracie, Johnsons, Hayward, Kemp, Goldsborough, Huff,  
George E. Foster, I. S. Gibson, Finley, Hays, Haines, Hackett, Brough,  
Ellis Harris, Hawkins, Hilton, Hopkins, Houard, William White,  
Hulzman, Heard, Abe Irwin, Merchant, Foley, Fotheringham, Frank Wright?

There were numerous top-notchers, brand of J. J. Vandergrift,  
Forman, Hasson, Beers, Gilfillan, H. L. Foster,  
Mitchells, Swift, Joseph Bushnell, William Parker, Wesley Chambers,  
Joseph Seep, J. T. Jones, O'Day, Suhr, Scheide, never at the switch  
asleep; Opportunity came knocking and they held it with  
firm grip, When the water was alluring plung'd for a success-  
ful dip.

Kindred spirits were not lacking, positive as "eggs  
is eggs," William Innis, Seldens, Frasers, Simpsons, Tom Mc-  
Connell, Beggs, Peter Schreiber, A. J. Greenfield, Reed, McLaugh-  
lin, Cal. N. Payne, William Archbold, John McCollum, Fishers, Goet-  
tels, C. E. Main, Charlie Owston, I. M. Sowers, O. F. Schonblom, Ru-  
dolph Schalk, Isaac Reineman, James Sheakley, who knew no such  
deed as balk.

There were dynamos in trousers, word as good as  
bond or pledge, Never tried to shirk a promise, never sought to  
dodge nor hedge; R. R. Richardson, George Harley, Clarks, Fink,  
Justus, Charlie Ball, H. R. Blackmarr, William Thompson, William Lec-  
key, John Munhall, Bettis, Jimmy Lowe, Mike Keating, Melville, Steven-  
son, Frank Tack, Porterfield, Tedcastle, Naly, ne'er to friend nor foe  
turn'd back.

Other live-wires had their entry, who would win in  
any line; Hannas, Hukills, Leo Milton, Pinkerton, Sikes, Ajax  
Kline, T. P. Miller, Preston, Rogers, Wheeler, Howe, Clint  
Roudebush, Jayne, Sam Blakely, Bod C. Collins, full of stamina  
and push, Billy Nicholas, Nate Bushnell, H. M. Hughes, Mike  
Lowentrift, Hendricks, Nicholsons, John Eaton, ever prompt to  
do their bit.

Royal blend of Mocha-Java, always tun'd to concert  
pitch, C. H. Duncan, Colbert, Campbell, Comer, Connor,  
John S. Rich, Tom R. Cowell, Creighton, Kinter, Culbertson, Wade  
Hampton, Conn, Hepburn, Smithman, Walters, Whitney, thorough-  
bred to bet upon, Willoughby, John Wallace, Stebbins, Moorehead,  
Sherman, M. M. Mount, Reynolds, Sweet, Hi Whiting, Taylors, Leedom,  
Porters swell the count.

Yet the list is not exhausted, many a remember'd  
name Might be added to the roster of the fascinating  
game; William Shreve, VanVelsor, Maxwell, J. A. Weible,  
Joseph Bates, Dan Moran, J. O. R. Wilson, Choate, McCarty, tip-  
top mates;

Jimmy Young, McCray, Buchanan, John Barr, New-  
man, Pullman, Shank, Waugh, Cadwallader, McKinley, sound as money in  
the bank.

After various migrations, the committee chose a lot—  
Seneca, Sycamore, Centre bounded the selected plot;  
Meadville Carpenters contracted to erect a building  
quick, Sixty-one feet by one hundred, three tall stories of  
red brick; On the twenty-third of April, eighteen seventy-and-  
eight It was duly dedicated—credit to the Keystone State.

Next forenoon the doors were ope'd to begin a lively  
scene— Let the picture for a moment film once more upon  
the screen; Note the host of yelling demons and the jargon of  
their tongues, The fierce tumult and the shouting indicating healthy  
lungs; Six telegraphers of merit harness the electric click,  
Nimble messengers rush wildly and deliveries are  
slick.

John J. Fisher's piercing treble, rising high above  
the din, First consignment on the record to McClintock  
passes in; Spry Sam Justus picks up options, Parker sells to  
O. H. Strong, Archbold trots with Archie Fraser, Blakely tip 'em  
short or long, Davy Laughlin and McLaughlin compass an impor-  
tant deal, L. T. Lamberton buys largely for Fos Mitchell and  
Frank Steele.

Payne hands Lowentrift a bundle, Nicholas is in the  
swim, Lowe serves customers by dozens, bet no flies alight  
on him; Waugh & Hilton buy from Milton, Wheeler has a  
wad to sell, Whitney's whit would load a jitney, Hays and Weller  
well up well; George P. Hukill and Tom Simpson total an enor-  
mous score, While Dan Goettel hails George Lewis: "Make it  
50,000 more?"

P. H. Judd and George S. Morgan don't misjudge a  
juicy chance, Foster fosters a fat contract, Collins caroms with  
McCance, Tommy Hackett helps the racket, Pullman pulls a  
car of chink, Dick Conn and Sam Hanna dicker, Pinkerton hob-  
nobs with Fink, Live Jack Goettel shows his mettle, Harry Sweet  
is on the job, B. F. Brundred lands 'steen hundred, Cornwall finds  
corn on the cob.

Naly nails a tempting morsel, Hampton trains with  
Noah Clark, Hawkins is no idle hawker, Howe and Hotchkiss  
toe the mark,

Porterfield and Greenfield bargain, O. C. Sherman wins a trump,  
H. I. Beers and William Scheide are not squatting on a stump,  
Kemp and Henry Harley parley, Charlie Cooper makes a scoop,  
And Tom Nicholson coins nickels on a merry loop-the-loop.

William S. McMullan, Sumner, Lee, Kilgore fit close,  
Joseph Oberly, Joe Manning and Joe Walcott look jocose,  
Lewis, Dick Longwell, Hallet, Walker, Plumer, A. P. Dale,  
Walter Siverly, Potts, Robbins, John P. Zane, Roess hit the trail;  
Overy, Darr, Layman, Wyman, William Purse, Ben Smith, Tom King,  
J. M. McElroy, Trax, Weaver group around the centre ring.

Jim Mawhinney and Davinney try a shinny in the whirl,  
Mike McCarty, stout and hearty, is a party in the swirl;  
Keen spectators shove in orders, the excitement is intense,  
The confusion baffles Babel and transactions are immense;  
Transfers foot up tens of millions, gamely distancing New York,  
But the wheels are lubricated and the craft sails like a cork.

John B. Smithman first suggested and was first to introduce  
Model Clearing-House arrangement, now in universal use;  
He, with John M. Reed assisting, drew a sample balance-sheet,  
Bankers all endors'd the system and its triumph was complete;  
Titusville, Manhattan, Pittsburgh, Parker voted it worth while,  
San Francisco, London, Paris soon adopted the new style.

Labor-saving to a finish, it caught on to beat the "flu"—  
Let the author and its birthplace gladly have the honor due;  
Thus will Smithman and Oil City not be missing on the page  
Of oil history and movements at the speculative stage;  
"Tribute to whom tribute" is a maxim that deserves respect,  
Tho', alas, too often treated with contemptuous neglect.

Tho' you ransack ev'ry corner, tho' you auto near and far,  
Go Methuselah one better, hitch your airplane to a star,  
You will never see repeated days like gala days of old,  
Never see a band of hustlers cast in a more perfect mould,  
Never witness a recurrence of the gilt edge age of oil,  
Never witness tireless traders in so strict accord with Hoyle.

They might differ in religion, disagree in politics,  
But they valued rigid honor, sat down hard on measly tricks,  
Spent their money like hail fellows, heeded Poverty's sad pleas,  
Set the shyster and the tightwad with the yellow curs and fleas;  
"Render Caesar's things to Caesar" was their unfor-gotten rule,  
Manly principle to practice even with the two-leg'd mule.

Sturdy as Gibraltar fortress, unafraid of snags and rocks.  
Not a few had graduated from The College of Hard Knock;  
Most had plenty pep and ginger, knew the ten-spot from the ace,  
Took nobody's dust in business and were sprinters in the race;  
All attended church on Sunday, and felt blissfully content  
To have God run His creation without asking their assent.

The whole bunch were dandy mixers, in society stood pat,  
Ready for a trade or frolic at the dropping of the hat,  
Read the Bible and the *Derrick*, had no taste for empty froth,  
Made the best of circumstances, cut the coat to suit the cloth,  
Studied markets, baseball, science, classics, comics, singletax,  
And were not averse to poker when they wanted to relax.

Yardwide legion of the region, sixteen ounces to the pound,  
Plucky, hopeful and ambitious, splendid folks to have around,  
Loyal to the spangled banner, trusting God and Uncle Sam,  
Marching in the forward column, hating fuss and fume and sham,  
They fulfill'd their obligations, from a duty would not shrink,  
Nor had conscientious scruples when invited for a drink.

Matters were progressing finely, with no sign of a simoon  
That would end the institution in its fructifying bloom;  
Standard notified one morning: "We will fix crude's daily rate  
And discard outside quotations on and after such a date"—  
Gone Othello's occupation, 'twas a wide rift in the lute,  
Oil Exchanges put up shutters and the bulls and bears are mute—

Where the gay and festive brokers had their barter and their sport—  
What a fall is there, my country!—now a movie holds the fort;  
And the lads have scatter'd widely, to the north, south, east and west,  
Death has reap'd a heavy harvest of the bravest and the best—

For the grim, relentless reaper has all seasons for his own,  
And the snows of many winters over many graves have blown.

Some have settled in Chicago, Denver, Omaha, Duluth,  
Some in Florida are testing Ponce de Leon's Fount of Youth,  
Some are factors in production, in refining numbers shine,  
Some are filling city pulpits, some are delving in the mine;  
But no odds what home or calling, juggling pen or pick or drill,  
Loving thoughts of old Venango bring a soul-reviving thrill.

It is pleasant to remember, since the weary years have fled,  
Forms and faces once familiar and the happiness they shed;  
Feel once more their joyous presence and its stimulating glow,  
Hear their voices in the bustle and the songs of long ago—  
Listen to their bids and offers, "Dixie," "Hot Time," "Home, Sweet Home,"  
With a dash to back Caruso and McCormack off the dome.

Over Here the ranks are thinning and are bulging Over There,  
Steadily recruits are stepping to ascend the Golden Stair;  
In the course of mortal nature, it must shortly come about  
That the last surviving member will be greeted with a shout;  
When the boys all land in Heaven, it will certainly be strange,  
If each swaps no reminiscence of Oil City's Oil Exchange.

Continuing the quotation from the *Derrick Industrial Number* of Dec. 15, 1917:

"Parker had a lively oil exchange when the Armstrong and Butler fields were at their height. The most prominent men in speculative trade lived in the town or were represented in the exchange. A jollier, bigger-hearted crowd of fellows than the members of the Parker Exchange never played a practical joke nor helped a poor sufferer out of 'a deuce of a fix.' The Bradford Oil Exchange started on Jan. 1, 1883, with five hundred members and a \$40,000 building. Five hundred others organized the Producers' Petroleum Exchange and erected a spacious brick block, occupying it on Jan. 2, 1884. Both have subsided and the buildings are stores and offices. Titusville's handsome exchange, on the site of the 'American Hotel,' has gone the same road. Captain Vandergrift built the Pittsburgh Oil Exchange, the finest of them all, fitting it up superbly. A bank and offices have succeeded the festive

dealers in crude. From the Mining Stock Exchange, the Miscellaneous Security Board and several more of similar types the New York Consolidated Stock and Petroleum Exchange developed a huge concern, with two thousand four hundred members and a lordly building, erected in 1887, on Broadway and Exchange Place. The membership was the largest of the country, with the exception of the Produce Exchange, and the business in oil at times exceeded the transactions of the Stock Exchange. Charles G. Wilson was president from the organization of the Petroleum and Stock Board, which absorbed the National Petroleum Exchange and in 1885 adopted the elongated name that burdened it for years. Philadelphia had an exchange of lesser degree and a score of oil region towns sharpened their appetite for speculation by establishing branch concerns and bucket shops. Since the elimination of exchanges producers generally sell their oil in the shape of credit balances. For their convenience the Standard Oil Company established purchasing agencies throughout the region, under the capable management of Joseph Seep, with headquarters at Oil City. The quantity of crude to the credit of the seller on the pipe line books is ascertained from the office, a check is given and all the trouble the producer has is to draw his money from the bank. The decision of the Standard to buy from producers without regard to exchange quotations sent speculation in crude to the junk pile.

#### NATURAL GAS

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THE CLEANEST, HANDIEST FUEL IN EXISTENCE  
IS CLOSELY ALLIED TO PETROLEUM  
AND NOT RESTRICTED TO NARROW BOUNDS

"Natural gas, right bower of crude petroleum and Nature's legal tender for the comfort and convenience of mankind, is the one and only fuel which mines and transports itself, without digging every iota and shoveling into stove or furnace. You bore a hole to the vital spot, lay a pipe to home or factory, turn a stop-cock to let out the vapor, touch off a match and there is the brightest, cleanest, steadiest, hottest fire on earth, devoid of dust, smoke, cinder or ashes, lighted or extinguished in a twinkling. It melts iron, fuses glass, heats and illuminates, broils and bakes to perfection, adds to the joy of living and is something to prize and be thankful for. At Fredonia, N. Y., three miles from Lake Erie, natural gas was

first used for illuminating. Opinions vary as to the exact date of its utilization, ranging from 1821 to 1824, when workmen tearing down an old mill on Canodonay creek observed inflammable bubbles on the water. Boring a small hole a few feet into the rock, the gas left its regular channel, lighted a new mill, and was piped to a hundred houses in the village at a cost of \$1.50 a year each. The flame was strong and for years Fredonia was the only town in America illumined by 'nature-gas.' When LaFayette spent a night there, in 1824, on his triumphal tour of the United States, 'the inn was lighted with gas that came from the ground,' a novelty that 'greatly pleased and interested the illustrious visitor.' Undoubtedly The Fredonia Gas Light and Water Works Company, chartered in 1865, was the first natural-gas corporation in the world. Its object was, 'by boring down through the slate-rock and sinking wells to a sufficient depth to penetrate the manufactories of nature, and thus collect from her laboratories the natural gas and purify it, to furnish the citizens with good cheap light.' The tiny stream of vapor first adopted at the mill yielded its mite forty years. Efforts to convey it to the lighthouse at Dunkirk failed as the gas would not descend to the lower elevation. Natural gas lighted a lighthouse at Erie in 1831, 'the Burning Spring,' a sheet of water through which it bubbled, furnishing the supply. A tower over the spring held the gas that accumulated during the day, wooden pipes conveying it at night to the lighthouse.

"Gas was used as fuel at wells on Oil creek and in one house at Petroleum Center in 1862. It was first collected in 'gas barrels,' one pipe leading from the well to the receptacle and another from the barrel to the boiler, often causing fires from the flame running back, when the pressure was low, and wrecking the outfit. D. G. Stilwell in 1867 drilled a gasser at Oil City, near the north end of the Relief Bridge, and piped the product into a dozen houses, but the danger from constant changes of pressure soon resulted in its abandonment. The Oil City Fuel Supply Company in 1883 laid a six-inch line to wells at McPherson's Corners, Pinegrove township, eight miles distant, piping gas from the second and third sands at nine hundred to one thousand one hundred feet. Samuel Speechly, on his farm near McPherson's, in 1885 started to drill three thousand feet in search of the Bradford sand, believing it existed far below the ordinary third sand in Venango county. On April 13, at one thousand nine hundred feet, the drill

penetrated what has since been termed the 'Speechly sand,' the most remarkable in gaseous annals. At three feet the heavy pressure prevented further drilling, and the gas company, leasing the well, turned the volume into the lines to Oil City. The second was larger, supplying enough gas for Oil City and branch lines to Titusville and Franklin. Hundreds of wells in a district thirty miles long by four miles wide found the Speechly sand from fifty to one hundred feet thick, making the territory unusually permanent.

#### GASOLINE

"The enormous demand for gasoline has led to many experiments to increase the percentage obtainable from crude oil and the patenting of a variety of processes, such as the Rittman, Burton, Snelling, Wells, Kelsey, Washburn and Seeger, some of which are in use on a large scale. Science has gone far toward overcoming the mechanical difficulties in the way of accomplishing thermal decompositions, commonly termed 'cracking,' obtained by excessive temperature alone or in combination with pressure. A recognized authority says:

"The new theory of increased extraction of gasoline from crude oil is that oil is made up of molecules; and the smaller molecules are the lighter products and the larger constitute the heavier products; that cracking or breaking these up runs the heavier product down to the lighter products and gas is formed; when kerosene molecules are broken up, gasoline is formed; when lubricating molecules are broken up, kerosene is formed; and when residuum molecules are broken up, they are converted into lubricating oil. The theory has been amply proved, hence the study of science has taught the nature of petroleum and the purposes scientifically of cracking. This is something entirely new in the treatment of crude petroleum, although chemists thirty years ago had hit upon its possibility."

"Hundreds of operators have installed apparatus to manufacture 'casing-head gasoline,' turning to profitable account much material heretofore wasted. The presence of gasoline in gas pipe-lines, noted decades ago, suggested extracting 'motor-spirits' from natural gas. A. Fasenmeyer made four thousand gallons of gasoline from the gas of oil-wells near Titusville in the fall of 1904, about the date Thompson Brothers operated a small plant at Tidioute. The industry assumed commercial importance in 1909, by 1914 reaching an output of forty-three million gallons annually, and

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

one hundred four million, two hundred twelve thousand eight hundred and nine gallons in 1916, valued at \$14,408,201, the product of five hundred and ninety-four plants. The gasoline output in 1916 approximated one billion eight hundred million gallons, and was much larger in 1917."

**VALUE OF NATURAL GAS AND OIL IN THE  
UNITED STATES**

By the end of 1906 all the petroleum States had been exploited for gas, the value of Pennsylvania's output surpassing oil, an interesting and suggestive fact. Here are the figures for that year of the United States Geological Survey, some of the fields then appearing for the first time:

FIELDS	<i>Value of Natural Gas</i>	<i>Value of Petroleum</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pennsylvania . . . . .	\$18,558,245	\$16,596,943	\$35,155,188
West Virginia . . . . .	13,735,343	16,170,293	29,905,636
Ohio . . . . .	7,145,809	16,997,000	24,142,809
Kansas and Okla- homa . . . . .	4,270,848	9,615,198	13,886,046
Louisiana, Alabama and Texas . . . . .	150,695	10,123,416	10,274,111
California . . . . .	134,560	9,553,430	9,687,990
Indiana . . . . .	1,750,715	6,770,066	8,520,781
Illinois . . . . .	87,211	3,274,818	3,362,029
New York . . . . .	672,795	1,995,377	2,668,172
Kentucky and Ten- nessee . . . . .	287,801	1,031,629	1,319,430
Colorado . . . . .	22,800	262,675	285,475
Wyoming and Arkansas . . . . .	34,500	49,000	83,500
South Dakota . . . . .	15,400	.....	15,400
Missouri and Michigan . . . . .	7,210	4,890	12,100
Total . . . . .	\$46,873,932	\$92,444,735	\$139,318,667

The same authority gives \$473,619,138 as the total value of gas marketed in the United States from 1882 to Dec. 31, 1906, the latter year contributing \$46,873,932 to this impressive showing, while the ten years succeeding have doubled over and over. Fifty thousand miles of two-inch to three-foot pipes transport

the volatile fuel to countless towns, factories, farms and homes, employing hosts of skilled workers and hundreds of millions of capital.

COAL

Coal underlies many of the townships of the county in seams from thirty inches to four feet in thickness. This is particularly the case in Cranberry township, in Scrubgrass, Clinton and Rockland townships, where the veins were worked for a number of years and where they are still worked to supply local demands. In the middle sixties a number of veins along Oil creek in different townships were exhausted to supply the needs of the wells drilling along the creek. The output sold readily for one dollar a bushel, and it was poor coal at that. The Cranberry coal banks were the most important of any yet worked. Veins four feet in thickness were opened near the head of Sage run, and a tramway was built from the coal banks to South Oil City following the course of Sage run. This was replaced by a railway, which was used for a number of years and changed ownership several times. It finally came into the possession of the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Early in 1883 a train loaded with coal became unmanageable upon the steep grade coming down into Oil City and ran away, killing several men and damaging the rolling stock and the roadbed. The railroad company decided that repairing the road would be more expensive than it was worth and abandoned the line. Their decision was doubtless due to the fact that natural gas was piped into the city and was generally used. Gas was also used at the oil wells, much of it being produced by the wells themselves. New burners were invented, taking care of the gas output, and their adoption did away to some large extent with the flaming gas torches which were once a feature of the oil country.

The coal is still here, and if the flow of gas continues to diminish, the coal may be again profitably developed.

## CHAPTER XIV

### MANUFACTURING

**JOHN FRAZIER, GUNSMITH—EARLY SAWMILLS—IRON MANUFACTURE—GRISTMILLS—OTHER ACTIVITIES AT FRANKLIN—THE OIL INDUSTRY AND ALLIED INTERESTS—ACTIVITIES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD—OIL CITY ENTERPRISES—EMLENTON**

#### JOHN FRAZIER, GUNSMITH

The first skilled mechanic noted in Venango county came here probably in 1748. The Indians in 1749, at several points along the river, implored DeCeloron, when he expressed his purpose of driving out the English traders, to spare them their gunsmith at Venango, saying they could not get through the winter without his aid. He made their guns new again after they had become useless. His name was John Frazier, the gunsmith, of Venango. He was certainly a manufacturer, for he could make and replace those parts whose absence made a gun useless, and thus cause the Indian's dead gun to recover life and speech and the long arm to capture the deer and the turkey. The natives thought him a magician, and his tools mysterious helpers, which worked wonders as he moved his hands and fingers. He had penetrated the northwestern frontier farther than any other trader or gunsmith, and had the earliest information of the attempt of the French to drive out the English, and seize the country. In 1753 he sent a letter to all traders informing them of the military activities of the French at Le Boeuf; later he informed them of the presence of a considerable party of French bringing gifts for the natives from the governor of Canada. His last letter, written from Braddock, reveals the influence of the French upon the Indians in the neighborhood. He says of one of his men who was left at the trading post: "Custaloga stole all his corn, and eight bucks all that he had received for goods," when he was escaping in the night. He had built a log cabin in which he lived. Joncaire, when he came to build his fort, found this cabin comfortable and commodious enough for his headquarters by exchanging the English colors for the flag of France, upon the ridge pole. In Frazier's cabin, as already

noted, Washington met Joncaire. Frazier, it seems, should be considered a notable manufacturer. He was also a most timely assistant of the English settlers, in giving early information of the French attempt, and the resultant attitude of the savages. The scene and the period flood him with highlight. He shall never vanish.

#### EARLY SAWMILLS

The first manufacturing establishment located in Franklin, and therefore the earliest in the county, was a sawmill situated about seventy yards from the Allegheny, and the same distance below the mouth of French creek. It is so indicated on the oldest map of Fort Machault. This mill was perhaps built by the French to aid in the construction of their fortress. If so, the machinery was brought from Canada or (more likely) from France. Some years ago chestnut timbers forming a part of the dam were dug out on Elk street, still in a good state of preservation. It is possible that this mill was repaired and used by the English in building Fort Venango, during the year after the departure of the French. Venango was larger, better and more complete in every way than Machault, and was built in much less time. Even the earthworks, the banks and the ditches, were more extensive. Surely the builders of Venango who produced a result which even now, with all the modern appliances, would be thought to be a large undertaking, had need of a mill in preparing their timbers. But what their instruments were, or who planned and formed this work, or how numerous they were, we do not know. We can only admire them for the magnitude and excellence of their building, and for its timely completion. Had the care of this fortress been worthy of its builders, one of Pontiac's horrors would have missed Venango.

## IRON MANUFACTURE

It was nearly seventy-five years after the first sawmill before the next attempt to establish domestic manufactures in Franklin. In the year 1825 Samuel Hays, always jolly and enterprising, built a forge to supply the demand for iron, which the early settlers obtained at great expense from Pittsburgh and points farther east. Bog ore was used, obtained in the neighborhood, and charcoal was the fuel. As the ore was melted in the "ell fire," the slag was drawn off by mixing with lime, and the metal, at this stage known as "hoop-iron," was successively heated and hammered to produce the desired coherence. The location was on French creek a mile from the river, a wing dam furnishing power for the hammers and blast. A hamlet was formed about the forge by the houses built for the workmen. The ironmaster was A. M. Lewis. By the construction of slackwater navigation the place was made untenable, and was deserted early in the thirties.

Shortly before this, a quarter of a mile above the upper bridge, a plant was arranged by Alexander McCalmont. After several experiments he replaced the old forge in 1832-33 by a quarter-stack blast furnace twenty feet high, bosh diameter six or seven feet. He conducted it, with twenty employees, till 1834, when Samuel F. Dale bought it, carrying it on for several years. During this time it was the only manufacturing concern of the borough.

In 1842 Edward Nock, James Dangerfield and Edward Pratt became the members of a new firm in the town, aiming to establish The Franklin Iron Works, on a more extensive scale than any like concern hitherto found in the region. These men had formerly belonged to the Great Western Iron Works at Pittsburgh, of which Edward Nock was general manager. Their coming was considered to mark the beginning of a forward industrial movement, and was attended with pleasing circumstances. The Great Western Band, made up from Mr. Nock's former employes, came with him on the steamer "Ida," and furnished music for the new firm's advent. A score of skilled workmen came with them, and began at once the erection of the needed buildings. A frame building one hundred feet square was erected upon the site of McCalmont's furnace, which was still standing, though out of use for several years. Two well built wing dams were arranged to furnish the necessary power. The concern started large, with one set each of muck, bar, sheet and finishing rolls, four pud-

dling and two heating furnaces, and eleven nail machines. The fuel was obtained from Singleton's coal bank in Sandy Creek township, while pig iron was bought at furnaces in this and nearby counties. The management of the company seems to have been arranged with due regard to the former experience of the men placed in control. Edward Nock was general superintendent, William Nock, foreman of the furnaces, and the rolling mills were in charge of James Dangerfield and Thomas Cooper, with sixty operatives. The wages were good, six dollars a ton for puddling, rollers two and one half to three dollars per day. For a time the works were run at full capacity, when, as one writer politely says, "lack of harmony among the members of the firm prevented the business from being profitable." H. Coulter & Co. became proprietors. Next the workmen formed a cooperative company agreeing to contribute half their wages to purchase the property, Coulter to furnish the raw material and act as agent for the sale of the product. By this plan the workmen would pay for the works in three years. But Coulter became insolvent, the cooperative company went to pieces, and the operatives departed. A number of changes in the ownership followed, but the works were dismantled several years before the Civil war. This was the most promising attempt to establish iron manufacturing in Venango county made during the ante-oil period. Its projectors were experienced, had been successful elsewhere, and possessed capital to make a fair start. Why did it fail? Probably the "lack of harmony" mentioned was due to deficits, which like the worm in the bud devastated the flower of promise. Supplies of pigiron fluctuated as the bog ore and wood for charcoal decreased near the furnaces, and were sought in other spots. The man at the primitive blast furnace found the cost of his output increased by the search for the nearest bogs, or timber for charcoal, along the stream upon which he was situated. Change of location meant dismantling one furnace and building another. For this cost increase, there was no remedy; the pigs did not rise in price. The markets were not satisfactory. There were times during the iron age of Venango when neither the products of the mills nor the raw iron of the furnaces would sell for enough in Pittsburgh or Erie to pay cost of production and freight; but Pittsburgh's finer coal and ores made manufacturing easy and cheap, while the canal to Erie ran uphill. These causes closed the big concern of Nock and Dangerfield in

Franklin and were equally effective against others later.

In 1847 Edmund Evans built a foundry, near an outlet lock. This was sold in 1849 to William Elliott and W. M. Epley, who were succeeded by Dempsey, Hunter and McKenzie in 1856, but within a few years the business was discontinued. The production of mill castings, stoves, plows and plow points, and general repairing, were the objects here. One by one the fires went out, the stacks were deserted, and they remain to-day along the valleys, crumbling monuments of the energy that did not die with the furnace fires.

The earlier forges and iron manufactories enjoyed a longer prosperity than those established later. In 1824, William Kinnear, Matthias Stockberger and Richard Noyes became partners in the erection of an iron foundry, furnace and mill with houses, steamboat landing and warehouses on the east side of the mouth of Oil creek. William Kinnear & Company thus made the first settlement here. It was known as the Oil Creek Furnace. On Sept. 19, 1825, William and Frederick G. Crary took over the business, which they conducted for the next ten years with vigor. This business was a prominent feature of the region. It will be remembered that the first steamboat ascending to Franklin took on an excursion there to visit the Oil Creek Furnace as a noteworthy place. This was in 1828. But in 1835 the property was sold by the sheriff, Andrew McCaslin, to William Bell. For fourteen years the Bells—William W. Bell and son, and finally Samuel Bell—operated the furnace, employing forty men most of the time. In 1849 the richer ores from Lake Superior caused them to close the furnace. The same cause, operating throughout the county, closed all its furnaces in a few years. It was thought by some that a change in the tariff law was responsible; but no law could have helped Venango, unless it should shut out Pittsburgh iron from Venango's markets.

#### GRISTMILLS

The mills of Franklin may be noticed in this connection. George Power is first here as in other matters relating to the town. He brought with him a small cast iron mill with which he and his neighbors ground their meal and flour. Alexander McDowell's mill, on the Allegheny, is mentioned in early records, but its location is not known. John Hulings built the first mill on the creek, nearly opposite West Park. Abraham Selders, a brother-in-law of Hulings,

built the second mill, on the south side of the creek, just west of the city limits. Alexander McCalmont had a grist mill and saw mill at his furnace, which passed to Nock and Dangerfield with that property. The mill was burned, but was rebuilt by Robert Lamberton.

The Venango Mills, situated at the outlet lock, were built in 1859 by Otis Hall, of Warren, and Samuel F. Dale, who operated them for a number of years. Johnson & Company became proprietors, and in 1882 the modern roller process was introduced. "Johnson and Company" are still named as the owners in 1918, and under manager H. W. Bostwick the wheels are still turning out "flour and feed." Mills gather interest as they withstand the years, particularly the gristmills. These are close to the primary needs of life in the homes. Children are fond of their dusty, clean-smelling compartments. The old boys, when in after years they return and visit the mills, find suggestions of the past clinging to the walls even as the white dust sticks to the cobwebs of the corners. As they regard the festoons of "the spider who taketh hold with her hands and is in" mills as well as "king's palaces," memory brings back boyhood's mates. They catch fish again under the dam, lose the big ones, and the whole panorama of the valley unrolls.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES AT FRANKLIN

In 1832 Charles W. Mackey opened a wagon shop on Elk street below South Park, but soon removed it to the site on Liberty street, where he continued the business for about thirty years. His wagons were superior in material and workmanship to any that came to this market. He made more than the home market demanded, but the surplus sold readily in towns farther east.

J. B. Myers began manufacturing carriages and wagons in 1859. J. D. Myers became a partner several years later. In 1885 the firm name was changed to Myers, Humphrey & Company. At the present time, 1918, the Myers Carriage Company, J. D. Myers, president, H. A. Myers manager, are manufacturers of carriages and auto bodies, at Buffalo and Thirteenth streets.

During the decade 1850-60 many manufacturing enterprises were started, but usually soon abandoned. This was true generally throughout the county. Dry ditches may be traced along the streams, which once supplied life currents to mills now traceable only by crumbling, disarranged foundations. Mills of

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

many kinds were started by the settlers to supply their pressing needs,—lumber mills, grist-mills, woolen mills, carding, weaving and cloth dressing, even flax mills to fit the raw product for domestic use, and stills to dispose of the surplus grain, which found a ready market in concentrated forms—these were indisputable evidence that the people were gaining in their conflict with primitive conditions. These machines, erected with thought and much effort, must have been regarded with satisfaction by the people. They were necessary, they were time-savers, and added to the people's productive power. Their almost simultaneous development over the county demonstrated a corresponding advance on the settlers' part. Their rapid increase was fine and good, but their sudden abandonment was even better and finer.

## THE OIL INDUSTRY—ALLIED INTERESTS

Consider a few of the first items of the following table, which furnishes the reader an approximate basis of the growth, value and extent of the petroleum development in Venango county from 1859 to 1888:

wells were drilled in one year, producing 2,130,000 barrels, at an average price of \$9.87 a barrel. Such a flood of wealth was probably never poured out before upon any community. All efforts would now be turned to the production of this amazing new element. Tools and all the machinery for drilling and storing and transporting the oil had to be invented and constructed. For example, the second productive well in the county, and the first productive well outside the Oil creek valley, was drilled in Franklin in a water well which had shown bubbles of gas and oil, by a blacksmith named James Evans, with tools manufactured in his own shop. He kept the tools in order himself and with the assistance of his sons he drilled to a depth of seventy-two feet, when he struck a sand rock which produced freely. This caused great excitement in Franklin, and even before the well began to produce a number of companies were formed to drill for oil. As early as April, 1860, a shipment of 427 barrels of oil was sent from Franklin to Pittsburgh by the steamboat "Venango." It is noted that from this time forward all the energies of the people were practically domi-

Year	No. Wells	Bbls. Produced	Average Price	Consumption	Stock
1859 . . . . .	1	2,000	\$20.00		
1860 . . . . .	200	200,000	9.60		
1861 . . . . .	300	2,110,000	2.73		
1862 . . . . .	400	3,055,000	1.05		
1863 . . . . .	500	2,610,000	3.15		
1864 . . . . .	1,000	2,130,000	9.87½		
1865 . . . . .	1,000	2,721,000	6.59		
1866 . . . . .	900	3,732,000	3.74		
1867 . . . . .	900	3,583,000	2.41		
1868 . . . . .	1,000	3,716,000	3.62½		
1869 . . . . .	1,000	4,351,000	5.63¾		
1870 . . . . .	1,044	5,371,000	3.89	3,156,528	554,626
1871 . . . . .	1,472	5,531,000	4.34	5,553,626	532,000
1872 . . . . .	1,201	6,357,000	3.64	5,804,577	1,084,423
1873 . . . . .	1,361	9,932,000	1.83	9,391,226	1,625,157
1874 . . . . .	1,350	10,883,000	1.17	8,802,513	3,705,639
1875 . . . . .	2,385	8,801,000	1.35	8,956,439	3,550,200
1876 . . . . .	2,960	9,015,000	2.56¼	9,740,461	2,824,730
1877 . . . . .	3,954	13,043,000	2.42	12,739,902	3,127,837
1878 . . . . .	3,018	15,367,000	1.19	13,879,538	4,615,299
1879 . . . . .	2,889	19,827,000	.85¾	15,971,809	8,470,490
1880 . . . . .	4,194	26,048,000	.94½	15,590,040	18,928,430
1881 . . . . .	3,848	27,238,000	.85¾	20,146,726	26,019,704
1882 . . . . .	3,269	30,460,000	.78¾	21,883,008	34,596,612
1883 . . . . .	2,886	24,300,000	1.05¾	22,096,612	36,800,000
1884 . . . . .	2,309	23,500,000	.83½	23,500,000	36,800,000
1885 . . . . .	2,857	20,900,000	.88	23,900,000	33,800,000
1886 . . . . .	3,525	26,150,000	.71¼	26,750,000	33,000,000
1887 . . . . .	1,670	21,818,037	.66¾	26,627,191	28,310,282
1888 . . . . .	1,504	16,131,000	.87¾	26,170,655	18,595,474

From one well of 1859 two thousand barrels were produced at an average price of twenty dollars a barrel. Five years later one thousand

nated by the attempt to produce oil and to manufacture all that was required to obtain it and to send it on its way to the world at

large. This accounts naturally for the abandonment of many other enterprises.

The refining business at Franklin began in a small way. The first to engage in this line was a Mr. Brown, and his methods were exceedingly primitive. The first refinery of any consequence was built by J. P. Hoover, and was burned in the autumn of 1861.

*The Norfolk Oil Works* were also established in 1861. Their capacity was two hundred barrels a week. In 1864-65 there were nine refineries in operation and after this the business for a time seems to have been discontinued almost entirely in Franklin. At present, however, the oil works at Franklin are very extensive.

*The Keystone Oil Works* were built in 1864 by Samuel Spenser at a cost of thirty thousand dollars. He leased the works to Jacob Sheasley, and the latter leased them to the Standard Oil Company in 1875, for ten years, during which period the plant was not operated. J. H. Cain purchased the property in 1885, from which date the tankage capacity was three thousand barrels; still capacity, three hundred barrels a day, and filtering capacity two hundred barrels a month. The product consisted mainly of lubricating oils, amounting to six or eight thousand barrels annually. This concern was united with the *Franklin Oil Works* Jan. 1, 1890, and the latter works are still carried on by Earl G. Reamer, manager, and by Jacob W. Reamer. They are located at the foot of Atlantic avenue.

*The Crescent Oil Works* were first operated in 1873 in connection with an evaporating establishment in Sugar Creek township by L. H. Fassett.

*The Relief Oil Works* were built in 1878, S. P. McCalmont was chairman of the company, S. P. McCalmont, Jr., secretary, and O. B. Steele, manager. The stillage capacity was nine hundred and fifty barrels, and weekly capacity two thousand, five hundred barrels. The works were located across the river in Cranberry township.

*The Galena Oil Works, Limited.*—In 1869 Charles Miller and John Coon purchased the Great Northern Oil Company, which was organized in 1865, and was leased in 1868 by Colonel Street. In July R. L. Cochran became a member of the firm, and the name was then changed to Miller, Coon & Co. In January, 1870, Mr. Cochran retired, R. H. Austin taking his place, and the firm name became Miller, Austin & Company. In August, 1870, they were succeeded by the Galena Oil Works. Charles Miller, John Coon, R. H. Austin and

H. B. Plumer were partners. Messrs. Coon, Austin and Plumer disposed of their interests to the Standard Oil Company in December, 1878, from which date the business has been continued by the Galena Oil Works, Limited, and its successor the Galena-Signal Oil Company, of which General Charles Miller is president; C. C. Steinbrenner, George C. Miller, vice presidents; J. French Miller, secretary and treasurer; G. E. Proudfoot, assistant secretary; L. E. Stull, assistant treasurer; D. D. Mallory, controller; George A. Barnes, manager electricity department; James E. Linehan, superintendent mechanical expert department; L. E. Brown, superintendent shipping department. The office building is at Liberty street, corner of South Park, Franklin.

In 1869, when Gen. Charles Miller first began the production of lubricating oil by refining it from petroleum and compounding it with lead and other lubricating mediums, the standard lubricants for railway service were tallow, lard oils and greases. Astonishing as it may seem to modern railway men, in the light of present-day knowledge of the subject, General Miller had not only to prove to the railway executive of those days that Galena oils were more efficient than the previously used materials, but in order to secure the opportunity to demonstrate that efficiency, he had to make guarantees against injury to bearings, valves and machinery if Galena oils were put in on trial! How well Galena oils made good and have continued to do so through all these years is probably best evidenced by the fact that the first three railroads to use Galena products are still using them and have done so continuously for nearly half a century.

It is a period of only about thirty years from the date of the first electric car in America to the comfortable, high-speed, efficient electric car of to-day. Naturally this rapid progress in modern methods would not have been possible without concurrent progress in every department of the railway business. Greater speed, increased weight of equipment, longer runs and other factors have naturally created a need for more efficient lubrication. Galena oils and the service that goes with them have met this need throughout the whole period of modern railway development. Galena methods have never stood still. They have always improved. Galena products were tried by a few railroads at first. Their superior value was demonstrated beyond question. Their use increased rapidly. As lubricating demands became more exacting, Galena oils met the new conditions.

Galena service was developed and broadened so that the cost of lubricating railway equipment could be reduced and better lubricating methods would be adopted by the industry. That this service is a real one—that Galena products have played a big part in the growth of the railway industry—is evidenced by the fact that today the equipment of practically every steam road and a majority of the electric railways of the United States and Canada are lubricated with Galena oils under Galena contract supervised by Galena experts.

This company also manufactures signal oil, which is considered to be unequaled for signal lamps, for headlights, marker and classification lamps, to secure greatest candle power and purity of light. It is valuable for switch and semaphore lights as it burns for a long time.

General Miller guaranteed results to his customers. This he could do, for he knew by long years of experience and study that it was safe to do so.

The following plants are among the important manufacturing concerns of Franklin, giving employment to hundreds of people and paying out annually hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages and salary: The Colburn Machine Tool Company, The Venango Manufacturing Company, the American Steel Foundries Company, the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company, the Franklin Manufacturing Company, and the General Manifold and Printing Company.

General Miller took an active part in encouraging these companies to locate here, and was doubtless the deciding factor in bringing them to Franklin. The Galena Company has a fine record in regard to the wages of its employes. They have been looked after during sickness and misfortune and are pensioned on arriving at the age of sixty or sixty-five, after twenty years of satisfactory service.

*The Franklin Steel Works*, Edward E. Hughes, general manager, C. F. Mackey, assistant general manager, F. H. Allison, cashier, have rolling mills located at No. 602 Atlantic avenue. This has an important place in Franklin's manufacturing industries. It employs at present over two hundred men in the manufacture of steel for concrete reinforcement, angles, channels, channeled flats and miscellaneous shapes used in the manufacture of agricultural implements and metal furniture. One of its specialties is the making of steel poles and towers for all overhead construction. It also produces a brake beam, known as the

"creco" beam, which has become famous and is used by railroads at home and abroad.

*The American Steel Foundries Company*, Percy P. Allen, works manager, R. William Freed, assistant works manager, has a plant at No. 240 Howard street, in the Third ward. It is extensive and is one of the nine large plants of the American Steel Foundries Company, whose general offices are in the McCormick building in Chicago, with branch offices in the principal cities of the country. The Franklin concern employs 470 men and manufactures all kinds of steel castings.

*The French Creek Foundry Company*.—This company makes a specialty of grey iron castings of all weights from ten pounds to ten tons. The officials are as follows: Robert Ramsey, manager; Edward P. Stanton, foundry department foreman; Edwin M. Liddle, shipping department foreman; Frederick L. Liddle, secretary; Willis C. Mong, master mechanic; Nellie Ramsey, cashier; James A. Jolly, foreman core department; Thomas P. Sweeney, foreman night force. The new plant began operations in February, 1916, having taken over the business of the old company, whose plant was destroyed by fire the previous year. From the start the concern has been taxed to its full capacity, which is two hundred and fifty tons of castings monthly. The main building is a steel and concrete structure, containing a molding room with a fifteen-ton handling crane. The employees number eighty-five men which force will be increased as improvements and additions are made. The main product of the plant is cylinder castings up to eight tons in weight. A large portion of the product is used locally, but the company has a market as far west as British Columbia and south to New Orleans. Much has also been shipped to the Atlantic seaboard.

*The Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company*.—The officials of this company are: W. H. Callan, general manager, Franklin, Pa.; T. B. Groshart, superintendent of Plant No. 1, Franklin, Pa.; O. C. Estergreen, superintendent Plant No. 2, Franklin, Pa.; E. H. Crossen, engineer, Franklin, Pa.; W. E. Nichols, chief patternmaker; Leon F. Hoffman, chief draftsman; M. A. Eakin, production clerk and storekeeper; R. P. Cowin, purchasing agent and office manager. The company employs 275 men. The output consists largely of pneumatic hoists and drills. The Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company has been in operation for twenty years.

*The Franklin Air Compressor Company* be-

gan operations in 1901, largely through the influence of Gen. Charles Miller. The Chicago company bought the Franklin company in 1907. For some time previous to that air compressors were manufactured, and until 1914. Then fuel oil, gas, and steam engines were made. The company also manufactures gasoline engines, gas compressors, gas expanders and vacuum pumps. It operates two plants in Franklin, No. 1 Plant located at No. 20 North Thirteenth street being the manufacturing plant. No. 2, at No. 150 Howard street, is for the assembling of parts. This institution is a wonderful manufacturing concern requiring workmen of the highest skill and would be a credit to any city. The seventeenth century is remarkable for the invention of the air pump, which remained simply a piece of scientific apparatus for one hundred and fifty years. This company applies the principle of the air pump both as a compressor and expander of air and gases to the needs of manufacturing. Compressed air may be used wherever steam can be, and is frequently much more convenient in its application.

*The Producers' Supply Company.*—The present company was organized in 1904. Before that date it was run by George Maloney for twenty-five years, prior to that by Andrew McElhiney and George Maloney. The officers are: Charles H. Sheasley, president; John A. Stone, vice president; J. A. Flood, secretary and treasurer. This company is the exclusive manufacturer of valveless gas engines, and castiron working barrels for pumping oil and salt water. Many of these pumps have been in use for fifty years without rusting. This peculiar property of cast iron of not rusting in salt water was taken advantage of by Secretary McAdoo in laying the tubes connecting New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City. The heavy oil wells in Franklin yield enormous quantities of strong brine with very little oil, and therefore for the last half century have furnished a capital test of the superiority of cast iron to resist the corroding power of salt.

*The Colburn Machine Tool Company* is one of the solid concerns of Franklin. Its officers are: Gen. Charles Miller, president; W. E. Barrow, secretary; H. W. Breckinridge, treasurer; L. H. Colburn, general manager. This company manufactures machine tools. It is located at Nos. 301-331 Buffalo, corner of Third street. The employees number 240 men, and thirteen women. The product consists of special tools; for example, machines to cut screws which can be started and be run for a month

without attention or till the supply of raw material is exhausted, and other machines for various purposes.

*The General Manifold and Printing Company* employs 225 men and 110 women. It manufactures sheets with printed headings and carbon backs, with blank sheets between, so that four copies may be made at one impression with pen, pencil, or typewriter and all of them distinct. The demand for the output is increasing steadily. The plant is located on Sixth street, corner of Buffalo street. Gen. Charles Miller is president of the company; Clifford Barnard, vice president and general manager; M. A. Drake, secretary and treasurer; R. L. Satterwhite, assistant general manager.

*The Franklin Manufacturing Company* manufactures magnesia asbestos and journal packing. Justin R. Swift is vice president and general manager; E. C. Davis, treasurer; Thad. L. Farnham, general manager of sales; W. H. Bosworth, sales department. The plant is located at No. 10 Orchard street and Nos. 130-140 Howard street. It owns an asbestos mine in a neighboring county. The asbestos rock is ground up into powder and manufactured into asbestos waste for packing car journals. This takes the place of cotton waste and is far more satisfactory, being less liable to heat and almost indestructible. Asbestos cloth for boiler lagging or lining and for covering steam pipes is also manufactured. The company employs 185 men and nine women. Another of its products is calcine for absorbing medicine in solutions.

*Franklin Portable Crane and Hoist Company*, John P. Frazier, secretary and treasurer. This plant is located at No. 46 West Park street. The product is portable cranes for hoisting articles weighing four thousand to five thousand pounds, by hand power, to almost any required height. The machine is moved about on wheels.

*The Venango Manufacturing Company* makes railway appliances and devices and employs 220 men and twenty-nine women. They have contracts disposing at a profit of all their output. Their location is at Liberty and First streets. J. S. Coffin is president; D. D. Mallory, secretary; C. H. Patterson, superintendent.

*The Macy Engineering Company* is located at Twelfth and Otter streets. William A. Muir is president; John A. Wilson, vice president; O. D. Bleakley, secretary and treasurer; C. H. Sheasley, general manager. This concern manufactures aeroplane controls and automatic altitude adjusters.

*R. E. Jones & Company* manufacture all kinds of sheet metal works. Steel tanks for field or storage uses are made in every size from ten barrels to sixty thousand barrels, and can be erected anywhere. A specialty is also made of refinery work. The *R. E. Jones Company* consists of R. E. Jones and M. P. Brown. Its location is on Chestnut street and Hillside avenue, Franklin.

*The Foco Oil Company* has the following officers: President, H. F. Grant; vice president, W. A. Edsall; secretary and treasurer, S. J. Black; assistant secretary and treasurer, P. G. Heath; manager of refinery, C. E. McElhiney. The company has done a general jobbing business, buying and selling oils throughout the United States, having branch offices in Chicago and Kansas City, and a warehouse also in Kansas City. The capital is \$250,000. It has a refinery in Franklin capable of refining all the Franklin heavy oil production of about forty thousand barrels a year. This oil has been worth four dollars a barrel for the last forty years. The company recently advanced the Franklin oil from four dollars to five dollars a barrel. It makes a fine lubricating oil. The company has built a model refinery costing \$150,000, practically fireproof, consisting entirely of concrete and steel. It owns the Franklin Pipe Line, Limited, forty miles long, extending to all the wells in the Franklin field and having storage tanks of seventy-five thousand-barrels capacity.

*The Eclipse Oil Works of The Atlantic Refining Company* has a wonderful record which has been reflected in the growth of Franklin industrially and demonstrated that the making of working conditions pleasant, safe and sanitary pays in dollars and cents. During all of its more than forty years of history it has been one of the standbys of Franklin industrially, and has never had a strike or labor trouble of any kind. Taking into consideration that the business is unusually hazardous, the fact that only two men employed by the company have been killed while in the performance of their duty during all these years is a remarkable record. Not even satisfied with this showing, the present management has organized a committee of safety from its employes and their suggestions looking to greater safety of employes are gladly carried out. The history of the Eclipse Oil Works is really a history of industrial Franklin and unfolds a romantic story of the growth of the oil business. The works were founded in 1872 by Dr. Herbert W. C. Tweddle, who came from Pittsburgh, where he had operated a small refinery, and

purchased eight acres of land, erecting a refinery with a capacity of one hundred barrels per day on the site of the present office building. The Eclipse Lubricating Oil Company, Limited, was organized in 1873 by Franklin capitalists, with Dr. A. G. Egbert as president, C. W. Mackey, vice president, John B. Moorhead, secretary, Forster W. Mitchell, treasurer, and Dr. Tweddle, manager. In 1876 the concern passed into the hands of the Standard Oil Company. At that time the plant consisted of ten small stills, one 7,000-barrel tank, two 2,000-barrel tanks, and one 1,500-barrel tank, with smaller tanks. The Standard Oil Company placed the late Thomas Brown in charge of the plant as manager and he continued in that capacity for several years. In 1884 Col. S. C. Lewis was made president and the late Duncan McIntosh secretary and treasurer.

In 1902 the Eclipse Works was made a part of the Atlantic Refining Company, which also has plants in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and distributing stations in every city and town in the State. With its acquirement by the Atlantic Refining Company, Colonel Lewis became general manager and Mr. McIntosh assistant general manager. Mr. McIntosh retired in 1913 on account of ill health and was succeeded as assistant manager by G. E. Glines. Upon the retirement of Colonel Lewis, the following year, Mr. Glines became general manager. When it is recalled that in 1881, when Colonel Lewis and Duncan McIntosh took charge of the plant, the entire works did not extend above the present office building and included only a few small stills, the wonderful growth under their direction is more fully realized. There is at present only one building standing that was in operation at that time. There are twenty-one 300-barrel stills, ten 200-barrel stills, eight of 350 barrels, four of 500 barrels and twenty-three of 1,000 barrels, and more than 300 tanks, from a capacity of 35,000 barrels down. The plant now stretches along both sides of the public highway for one and three-fourths miles and its greatest width is three-fourths of a mile.

The Eclipse Oil Works has to a considerable extent blazed the way in the manufacture of petroleum products by originating a number of new processes and methods which have been adopted by other refineries in all parts of the world, a flattering recognition of the success attained by the Franklin plant in its own business. In another direction where the Eclipse has been exceedingly successful, and which has had far reaching effects, is in the training of young men. Young men who learned the

details of the petroleum industry under the direction of Colonel Lewis and Duncan McIntosh are to-day occupying positions of trust and power almost in every refinery and oil field of the world. These men, schooled in Eclipse ways and methods, have followed the lure of petroleum into West Virginia and Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, Kansas and Oklahoma, Texas and California, into South America and far-off Burmah and Sumatra, and into Roumania, Austria and Russia, and they have made good. Their success reflects not a little credit on the two men who were their friends and advisors as well as employers.

The Eclipse Oil Works manufactures every product of petroleum, including all different grades of gasoline, kerosene, lubricating oils, spindle oils, steam cylinder oils, greases, petro-latums, paraffin waxes, medicinal oils, asphalt, pitches, fuel and gas oils. The works have a capacity of 8,000 barrels a day of crude oil and use mainly the higher grades of Pennsylvania crude, produced in southwestern Pennsylvania, southeastern Ohio and West Virginia. The Eclipse buys and uses practically all the local second-sand oil and 500 barrels per day of Illinois crude. That the Eclipse is doing its full share to keep motor-driven machinery in operation is shown by the fact that its daily output of gasoline is 1,500 barrels or 75,000 gallons. The monthly output of paraffin wax runs from 1,250,000 to 1,500,000 pounds. With more than four hundred employees and an annual payroll of \$600,000, wholly for wages of those actually employed at the Eclipse works, the material influence of the Eclipse on the prosperity of Franklin can hardly be estimated.

Encouraged by the management of the company, the Eclipse Athletic Association was organized two years ago. Since then the employees have manifested much interest in athletics, maintaining a baseball team, basketball team, gun club, rifle club, bowling teams and war gardens.

The Eclipse pension system, which is a model of its kind, was inaugurated several years ago and at present twenty-eight veteran employees are enabled to pass their declining years free from financial worries when their earnings in the ordinary course of events would have stopped. That this pension system as well as the kindly treatment in general is appreciated by the employees, is indicated by the large number that spend their entire working life in the service of the company. At present 110 are on the rolls who have been employed for fifteen years or more. The large proportion of em-

ployees who own their own homes reflects credit upon their industry and indicates the high standard of the workingmen. Since the establishment of the plant the hustling village of Rocky Grove, with approximately 2,500 residents, and all the advantages of a modern suburban town, has sprung into being.

In order to do its share in abating the smoke nuisance, about a year ago the Eclipse began the erection of a new boiler house and central power house which will produce 8,000 horse power with its eight Sterling fate tube boilers, equipped with Green chain grates and latest devices for crushing and handling coal and ashes and for treating the feed water. The building is 35x120 feet, 85 feet high. The chimney is of tile, 300 feet high, with an inside diameter of 35 feet at the bottom and 17 feet at the top. 12- and 10-inch mains will carry the steam 2,000 feet in each direction with the necessary branch lines. When the new power plant is completed the company will do away with all the old boilers and twenty-one smokestacks will be abandoned. No smoke will issue from the new smokestack. The plant burns four hundred tons of coal per day. Seventy per cent of this is used under the boilers and the rest under the stills. The stills for the present will produce smoke, but the company expects at the earliest possible moment to equip the stills with automatic stokers. The construction of the power house has been delayed by the scarcity of labor and materials, but it is hoped to have four of the new boilers in operation Thanksgiving Day.

It is the desire of the present management to improve not only the appearance of the works by cleaning up unsightly places and the planting of lawns and flower beds and window boxes, but to better sanitary conditions for the workingmen. At convenient places throughout the entire works are toilets and locker rooms equipped with wash basins and shower baths. In order to secure the purest possible drinking water and avoid all danger of contagion the company has secured the rights of a spring on the River Ridge farm of Hon. Joseph C. Sibley. The spring is boxed in with concrete and the water is not exposed to the air until it comes from the taps in the Eclipse works. It is piped under the river into the plant and a large number of bubbling drinking fountains have been installed. At frequent intervals the water is tested in the laboratory of the company and has always been found perfect for drinking purposes.

Owing to the character of the works the menace of fire is ever present, and despite the

utmost precautions the Eclipse has experienced disastrous fires, but the damaged portions of the plant have always been restored as quickly as possible and its growth has been unchecked. The entire working force is organized into an efficient fire-fighting department. It is the duty of every employee, when the fire whistle blows, to hasten to the works at any hour of the day or night. The employes recognize that the Eclipse is their plant and its destruction would be a personal disaster for everyone. In consequence of this feeling the whole force is knit in a fire-fighting unit that is not surpassed anywhere and professional firemen who have seen Eclipse men fighting the most dangerous of all fires, an oil fire, could not say enough in their praise.

In their endeavors to secure the greatest possible safety for employes the management appointed a safety committee consisting of George Nicklin, W. J. Hamilton, George B. Clark, Donald Bleakley and J. M. Shoffstall. This committee holds regular monthly meetings and discusses thoroughly all suggestions of safety made by employes. It then makes its recommendations to the management and in practically every case these recommendations have been promptly accepted and put into operation.

The private telephone system of the Eclipse, with sixty-two telephones, open day and night, has proved a great convenience and time-saver. By a system of signals any officer of the works may be summoned from any part of the works.

Taken all in all, the employes and management of the Eclipse compose one big family with the best of good fellowship prevailing. Employes are always free to consult the officers of the company at any time and the personal advice and encouragement extended have been a material influence in shaping the policy of the employes to own their own homes. That the Eclipse is strong in the hearts of the people of Franklin is indicated by the expressions of cordiality heard on every hand.

Franklin certainly has enough manufacturing interests with large capital and resources of many kinds to supply a city of 100,000 people. It has made its importance felt all over the world.

#### THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD,

As showing the importance of the county as a center of transportation, are worthy of mention.

#### *In Oil City*

The Pennsylvania Railroad has two general repair shops, one on either side of the river. Each employs three hundred to three hundred and fifty men, working in three shifts of eight hours, during every working day. The north side shop is for temporary repairs only. That on the south side is equipped for more extensive work, where anything needed for efficient service may be manufactured and supplied. Connected with each yard is a roundhouse for the storage of engines. The north side house is now being used for the passenger engines of the Pennsylvania Lines West, the Erie, the New York Central, and the Pennsylvania Railroad. The freight engines of the first three roads mentioned, and a few of the Pennsylvania freight engines, are also accommodated here. Most of the freight power of the Pennsylvania Railroad has been moved to the new roundhouse on the south side. This was begun about a year ago and was completed last September (1918). All the stalls here were built to hold the largest type of engines, while three stalls on the north side are adapted to the large engines. There are nine stalls on the south side, and additional ones may be provided whenever needed, as there is plenty of room, for years to come.

Among the improvements lately installed on the south side is an automatic coaling appliance, known as the Roberts and Shaffers station. The coal is dropped into concrete boxes beneath the cars, and is lifted by electric power to the storage bins ready for use. New ash pits and inspection pits are also provided, and a new water station is in use. Among the additions planned are a new machine shop and a turntable 110 feet long, which will handle the large engines with ease. Upon its requirements at this point the Pennsylvania has spent during the last twelve or fifteen months nearly five hundred thousand dollars and the further ones already planned will call for another equal sum. It is the intention to make this one of the most completely furnished engine terminals in the country.

The city is the terminal of four branches of the Pennsylvania System, and a large number of men besides those residing here stop off for a day or a night, or longer. As a resting place for them, the company has purchased the former "Commercial Hotel" and fitted it with everything for their comfort. It has reading rooms supplied with papers, magazines and books, writing and sitting rooms,

sleeping apartments, bathrooms and toilet conveniences.

The railroad business has greatly increased in Oil City during the last few years. A greater number of departments are here now than formerly and each of these has extended its activities. The management, from the superintendent's office through the various branches of the administrative and executive control, has been most efficient and modern in purpose and in realization. The service of the road maintains in the city, as residents, more than one thousand eight hundred people, many of them the heads of families, and numbers of young people whose technical education and business experience have fitted them for responsible positions. A large railway administration resembles that of an army—there is a place for many kinds of special scientific training. In short, the railway has contributed enormously to the volume and soundness of the city's business.

#### *At Franklin*

Below Big Rock bridge is the freight yard of the Pennsylvania Railroad, extending for a mile and a half along the east bank of the Allegheny river. Its width in some parts is sufficient for twelve tracks, in others for fifteen or more. A very busy place is this yard. Here are assembled all the loaded cars coming in on any branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, or those by any other road, which are to be sent forward on any branch of the Pennsylvania. The loaded cars are weighed, and their weights, numbers and destination are registered. The cars are then pushed from the scales, and assembled in trains most convenient for the continued haul to other points. This yard requires the services of seventy-five to one hundred and fifty men. It is known as a classification yard, such being found only in large railway centers. It pays well in the time saved by doing away with much of the usual stopping and switching along the way. Many through solid freights are sent out to distant parts from this yard.

#### OIL CITY ENTERPRISES

Oil City was the natural center of the oil industry as it developed in this county. Oil had to come down Oil creek by the most tumultuous traffic that was perhaps ever seen on earth. Means had to be devised to send it down the river to market. Manufacturing began at once on a small scale to take care of this new wealth. The character of the manufac-

turing has been largely determined by the oil industry. Everything from the drill point to gasoline was soon made within the city limits.

*Charles Robson & Company* were the first to start a small factory, near the site of the pipe line shops in the Third ward. They bought Hasson's hardware establishment on the corner of Seneca and Center streets, opposite the Exchange site. This was in 1863. George Porter and F. Giegel joined the firm in 1864.

*Cummings Brothers* machine shops are probably the next. They were flourishing in the later sixties. They gradually ceased doing business, and the shops stood empty with the old machinery still in them after the first Transit shop was built. The Cummings brothers were Alexander, William and John. They held the land upon which their old shops stood at so high a price that their sale was prevented for several years.

*The Imperial Barrel Works* were ready for business in March, 1873. A force of 250 men and boys was employed. The plant had a daily capacity of one thousand barrels. Both force and capacity soon trebled. The first officers were: I. I. Wagner, president; C. A. Cooper, vice president; C. W. Owston, secretary and manager. This concern was afterward bought by the Imperial Refining Company.

*The Imperial Refining Company, Limited*, with works at Siverly and general offices over the Oil City Savings Bank, was organized in 1871. The officers were: President, J. J. Vandergrift; treasurer, John Pitcairn, Jr.; general manager, John Gracie, who with J. J. Lawrence and G. V. Forman composed the board of directors. It afterward became a limited company, with B. F. Brundred, chairman, and G. H. Vilas, secretary and treasurer. It had a number of departments: The gasoline plant, with a capacity of one thousand barrels of naphtha daily; the refinery proper, with daily capacity of two thousand barrels of crude oil; the barrel works, with an annual capacity of three hundred thousand barrels; and a paraffin works, formerly owned by C. C. Beggs & Company, having a monthly capacity of five thousand barrels of paraffin oil.

*The Oil Well Supply Company* grew out of the needs of the oil development. Early in the sixties the New York supply firms began to have their western departments cover the oil fields. Thus the history of the Oil Well Supply Company may be said to begin almost with the discovery of oil by Drake in 1859, as the late John Eaton, afterward president of the company, made his first trip in connection with the sale of oil well supplies to Titusville and

Oil City in the year 1861, representing Joseph Nason, with whom was associated H. R. Worthington, the well known pump manufacturer. Later, about 1868, the partnership of Eaton & Cole was formed; and still later, the Eaton, Cole & Burnham Company. In 1870 the late Kenton Chickering, afterward vice president of the Oil Well Supply Company, moved to Titusville as the representative of the firm of Eaton & Cole, and when it in turn became the Eaton, Cole & Burnham Company he was made their permanent representative in Oil City. The first shop and office were located on Elm street, on the site of the present Mattern Pharmacy. In 1878 the principal stockholders of the Eaton, Cole & Burnham Company formed a limited partnership known as the Oil Well Supply Company, Limited, and in 1891 this limited partnership was discontinued and the present corporation of the Oil Well Supply Company was formed. At that time the officers of the company were: John Eaton, president; E. H. Cole, vice president; Kenton Chickering, secretary, and E. T. Howes, treasurer; Louis Brown, now president of the Oil Well Supply Company, being one of the assistant treasurers.

The company acquired the well known property along the old W. N. Y. & P. tracks (now the Pennsylvania railroad), opposite the union station, on which they erected an office building and machine and drop forge shops; they also purchased the land back of the *Blizzard* office, which was used for warehouse purposes. In 1888 the Oil Well Supply Company, Limited, purchased from the Innis Manufacturing Company the engine works plant then located on Seneca street, which they operated for the manufacture of steam and gas engines, the property along the railroad tracks being operated at that time in the manufacture of general oil well supplies. In 1900 the company acquired the land on which was located the old Imperial Refinery at Siverly, now the Tenth ward of Oil City. Ground was broken for the foundation of the first building of what is now known as the Imperial Works in August, 1900. By the latter part of 1902 most of the buildings were completed and the installation of machinery begun. By the early part of 1903 the old engine works plant and the larger manufacturing establishment along the Pennsylvania railroad tracks had been abandoned and the two factories consolidated in the present well known Imperial Works. This plant is probably the largest establishment in the world devoted exclusively to the manufacture of oil well machinery and supplies, the entire tract of land

on which it is located comprising over forty-four acres.

The Imperial Works were erected under the personal supervision of Mr. Kenton Chickering, vice president and manager of the Oil City factories of the company, assisted by Mr. E. R. Gnade, M. E. Upon Mr. Chickering's death, on Dec. 9, 1908, Mr. Gnade was made manager of the plant, a position which he has successfully filled ever since. The buildings of the Imperial Works house among other departments a gray iron foundry, a malleable iron foundry, drop forge shop, blacksmith shops and general machine shops. Among other well known products manufactured are the "Oil-well" line of steam engines, "Black Bear" gas engines, Mud Hog pumps, all steel rotary machines, Oil Bath Rotary swivels, pumping powers, and over one thousand articles, large and small, of general oil well equipment. The plant employs an average of seven hundred and fifty to eight hundred high-grade men and maintains a large office force. The number at present is nine hundred and seventy-five.

The company also has other large factories, a boiler works being located at Oswego, N. Y., a large shop for the manufacture of packers at Bradford, Pa., and a very large plant operated at Pittsburgh in the manufacture of drilling tools.

The Oil Well Supply Company has representatives throughout the principal oil fields of the world, and in this country maintains a system of seventy-five branch stores supplied by a total of eight factories, including those mentioned above, and nine subsidiary shops taking care of the repair and jobbing shop work for the branch store trade.

Besides the Imperial Works plant, the company maintains three branch stores in Venango county, the large store and warehouse along the Pennsylvania railroad tracks at Sycamore street, Oil City, a store and repair shop at Franklin, and a branch store at Clintonville.

The total number of employes of the entire company is in excess of two thousand.

The officers at the present time are: Louis Brown, president; Louis C. Sands, vice president; D. J. Brown, treasurer; Grant Hubley, secretary.

After the sale of the Innis Manufacturing Company Mr. W. J. Innis, the originator and proprietor of the works, gave to each of the employes, numbering sixty-five, an order for the best suit of clothes obtainable at any merchant tailor's in Oil City. "They deserve it," he said.

***Oil City Boiler Works.***—In 1876 Michael Geary came to Oil City, attracted by the natural advantages of the place as a manufacturing center, its proximity to the oil fields as a market, and for the sources of the raw material needed in the business. In company with B. W. Vandergrift and Daniel O'Day he started a small tank and boiler shop on the corner of Duncomb street and the W. N. Y. & P. railroad. Under the management of Mr. Geary the business grew rapidly and in 1881 several acres of land on Seneca street were purchased and the plant removed to that location. From that time to the present the business has shown a remarkable increase. In addition to the tank and boiler departments the manufacture of engines on a large scale was commenced, and for the manufacture of flues the tube works was added. Mr. Vandergrift's interests were bought by Messrs. Geary and O'Day. Year after year the plants were enlarged and the scope of the market for the products was widened. Distributing agencies were established in Los Angeles, St. Louis, Denver and Chicago in the West; Philadelphia and New York in the East; Pittsburgh, Sistersville, Cincinnati for the South, and Buffalo for the Great Lakes and Canadian points. From a small plant in 1871, employing half a dozen men, the Oil City Boiler Works and Tube Mills combined grew to a concern giving constant employment to a force of fifteen hundred to two thousand men by 1896. Its products were known all over the world wherever oil was produced, and in all the leading cities where steam boilers were used, for heating or for power purposes. This is striking testimony to the ability of the men who planned and directed the work. After Mr. Geary's death the tube mills were sold to the National Tube Mills Company, which found the competition of the Oil City mills too strong to be comfortable. Had Mr. Geary lived, or had Mr. O'Day's diversified interests not prevented his taking charge of the works here, it is probable that this sale would not have been made.

***The Oil City Tube Company*** began in 1887 with a capital of \$100,000, afterward doubled, and in charge of M. Lowentritt, president; N. F. Clark, vice president; C. H. Duncan, secretary; W. J. Young, treasurer; John O'Shea, manager; George H. White, superintendent; with M. Lowentritt, Mr. Geary, Joseph Seep, R. G. Lamberton and C. H. Duncan, directors. The buildings erected were a lap-weld mill, 304 by 200 feet, of corrugated iron, containing four furnaces with a daily capacity of one hundred tons of pipe, 1½ to 12 inches, by 30 feet; a

battery of boilers of about six hundred horse power; eight engines ranging from twenty-five to one hundred and twenty-five horse power; a hydraulic testing pump, two steam hammers, two belt hammers, thirty pipe cutting and coupling machines, etc.; and a butt-weld mill 100 by 250 feet, with three furnaces, and machinery to make  $\frac{1}{8}$ - to  $1\frac{1}{8}$ -inch gas, steam, water and hydraulic pipe, with motive power composed of boilers of two hundred horse power and two engines of one hundred horse power each. The site covered five acres fronting on the railway and Seneca street, and six hundred men were employed. The works grew steadily to accommodate their great and rapidly formed trade. On Jan. 1, 1888, Mr. Geary became president, Joseph Seep vice president, G. S. Oberly secretary, and soon after the stock was increased to three hundred thousand dollars. After Mr. Geary's death in 1896 the company did not think best to refuse the offer of the National Tube Company.

The boiler works are still carried on, and are owned by the heirs of the men who organized them. They employ about two hundred men. Their boilers and engines are in great demand and are used from San Francisco to New York and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. In all the important cities they are used for heating large buildings and furnishing power for various purposes (such as running elevators, electric light power) and also by large manufacturing concerns. They have a list of over sixty cities which have repeated their orders for the Geary boilers. Their drilling engines have a wide sale in the new oil fields that have developed all over the world during the last twenty years. C. P. Berry is now secretary and treasurer.

***The Kramer Wagon Works*** were founded in 1861, by W. J. Kramer and D. L. Trax. The business grew from small beginnings till it was formed on its present basis in 1880, since which time it has increased in system and trade under the able management of its founders. Their specialties were farm, lumber and dump wagons, machinery trucks and special delivery wagons, all specially adapted to the rough roads and heavy loads of the oil country business. Their wagons are built to endure great strains, for example, a one-and-one-half yards Oil City dump wagon taken from stock, was loaded with five yards of sand, and hauled two miles, without a crack or broken or even deflected part. The total weight of wagon and load was 13,960 pounds. Being located in the famous oil fields of Pennsylvania, noted for their steep hills and rough roads, the firm had an excel-

lent opportunity to study carefully the kind of wagons needed for such conditions, with the result that their wagons are considered the standard for quality. In 1891 the firm was incorporated as the Kramer Wagon Company. About this time the large three-story double building was erected, giving the company about 130,000 square feet of floor space. The company manufactures all kinds of one-horse and two-horse heavy wagons. Many thousands have been sold in all parts of the world, and especially wherever oil is produced. Some of the wagons are adapted to the carrying of oil well tubes, long tubes, pumping rods, etc., the wagons being furnished with chaser or extension reach to make this possible. The company employs about sixty men regularly. The demand is steady for all the wagons manufactured. Many of them are now used by the United States army in Europe in the transportation of supplies. At this writing the company has just finished an order for two hundred and fifty army wagons and trucks, and the agent is inspecting the work to-day. The officers of the company at present are: J. D. Trax, president; E. McCracken, vice president; Robert Woolley, secretary; F. Z. Trax, treasurer.

*The Enterprise Milling Company* was established May 1, 1883, by L. R. Reed and W. W. McConnell. On Aug. 1, 1886, Mr. Reed purchased the entire interest, and in November the present company was formed. The following year their capacity was about three car-loads daily. After their great fire, in November, 1887, they rebuilt and put in rollers. Their plant and business is among the best of the city's assets. The present officers are: A. M. Lowentrift, president; R. Lowentrift, treasurer; H. H. Culbertson, secretary. The mills are located on Elm and Railroad streets.

*The Model Milling Company* mill is located on West Front street. The store is on Seneca street. This company has been organized about eleven years and has acquired a fine business. The present officers are: W. J. Magee, president; M. B. Crowther, treasurer; Roy V. Lesh, secretary; H. W. Archer, general manager.

*The Oil City Milling Company*, Andrew Karg, secretary and treasurer, is located at Nos. 1104-1108 East Second street. The company are manufacturers and dealers in flour, feed and grain. Buckwheat and graham flours are specialties.

*The National Transit Pump & Machine Company* has its main offices and factories at Oil City, with district offices in New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Kansas City and

Charlotte, N. C. About 1886 the pipe lines began making pumping machines, and repair shops were established at Tarport and at Petroleum. Fifteen years later these shops were removed to Oil City and began what is now the National Transit Pump & Machine Company. The foreman was John Klein, who brought most of the tools in his hands, but he also brought a great, active brain. He was the man for the place, because he had notable powers of invention. In the supplement of the Oil City *Derrick* we find the following authoritative statement regarding this concern:

"From a small shop devoted to repair work it has grown to a great manufacturing institution covering about ten acres of ground, with 330,800 square feet of floor space and having over 1,100 employes. Until the dissolution of the Standard Oil Company, in 1911, the function of the Transit Shops was to build machinery for the use of the old Standard Oil Company exclusively. The wealth of pipe line and refinery experience of the various Standard Oil subsidiaries was concentrated in the product of these shops. In ordering machinery from the Transit Shops, the old Standard Oil Company had but one specification—make it the best that is possible. Prior to the dissolution not a dollar's worth of machinery was sold to anyone outside of the Standard Oil subsidiaries. To-day the experience gained by many years of association with various authorities in the oil and gas business is available to the general public."

Pumps of all sizes and powers are manufactured here, from the small gas-engine-driven, gas-pumping unit, built to take care of the little gas production, formerly considered negligible, to the last call in economical oil pumping, a horizontal six plunger triplex power pump arranged to have a Diesel oil engine directly connected to the pinion shaft, with a 36-inch stroke for 42,000 barrels in twenty-four hours, against 900 pounds pressure. The following taken from the Oil City *Derrick* of Oct. 14, 1918, under the heading "That Naval Pipe Line," exhibits the resources of this institution:

"On Tuesday the papers who are members of the Associated Press printed a story from Washington telling of the activities of the United States Navy department in construction work and among other important achievements noted was the construction of a pipe line to carry oil across Scotland to 'avoid haulage.' The line supplies the big naval station of the Allies at the Firth of Forth. Under any cir-

cumstances the feat would interest the people of the Oil country in general because of its demonstrating the great part petroleum and its products are taking in the war for democracy, but Oil City people are entitled to be especially interested because it was the National Transit Pump & Machine Company plant, this city, that furnished the tools with which the line was laid. The fact was known to a limited number, including the newspapers of Oil City, but because of the aid it would give the enemy to know of the facts no intimidation was made of Oil City's great part in the enterprise. By the use of the line the long sea voyages of tankers carrying fuel oil were eliminated and with that elimination of distance was also the elimination of the destruction or capture of the oil carrying vessels in making their trips with fuel oil to the great Scotch naval base.

"Since the announcement of the existence of the pipe line in Scotland has been officially given for publication it is now no violation of confidence to recall some of the early history of its construction.

"Forrest M. Towl, head of the Southern Group of Pipe lines, Standard Oil Company subsidiaries, was asked to send an expert to France to consult with the Lords of the Admiralty of England and other Allies of America regarding the feasibility of constructing and operating such an oil carrying line. He went himself early last May. It was suggested to him several weeks would be required to complete arrangements and contracts, but his answer, in effect, was characteristic: 'We do not build pipe lines that way in America.' All the routine of 'red tape' was eliminated and in three days he had shown how the line could be built and had all the contracts signed up. Then he sent a cable message to the National Transit Company ordering pipe line construction equipment sufficient for two full gangs sent to New York. The best in stock was selected, the railroad company furnished a special express car, the material was loaded and one of the trusted men of the company was put in charge of the car, which, leaving here at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, was landed in New York at 11 o'clock the following morning.

"Theodore Towl, a son of Forrest M. Towl, was assigned the important duty of getting the construction gang together. Among the cantonments in New York and vicinity he found among those in training eighty men who were skilled in pipe line construction, who were selected both for their experience and

trustworthiness, and men of similar qualifications were selected from the best men in the employ of the Prairie, Tidewater and other pipe line subsidiaries of Standard Oil to add to the selected soldiers, making a party of one hundred and fifty men.

"Eight-inch pipe of the highest grade was as quickly brought to the seaboard and within three months the line was completed and was in operation, supplying the big warships and smaller craft with fuel.

"The National Transit Pump & Machine Company is now running very close to the 100 per cent. mark in United States government essentials. They at present have in course of construction between three hundred and four hundred pumps of various types, vertical single, vertical duplex, horizontal duplex and other marine pumps, including many sizes. These have all been preceded by an advance guard of several hundred pumps of the same type and calibers, which are now in service and fulfilling their destined duty in the hearts of Uncle Sam's ships already sailing the high seas. The Emergency Fleet Corporation and its subcontractors are absorbing a goodly portion of the output of this plant. Besides this the National Transit Pump & Machine Company has in process work of a very interesting nature, as well as of vital importance to our government, at this time, such as recuperators and slides for 75-mm. and 155-mm. guns, some of which are expected to be, within thirty days from this date, assembled and in action on the battle front hurling shot and shell into the German hordes.

"Throughout all this, however, this company has not failed to take care of the requirements of the oil and gas industry, which latter are also classed as government essentials. No effort is spared to turn out machinery for the handling and transporting of those essential war products—oil, gas and gasoline.

"Although every resource of the management and splendid loyal force of men in the employ of the company is being drawn upon to keep up with the demands of the government there are still orders unfilled. Just now the Fuel administration is urging early completion of one of the big horizontal duplex power pumps, 6 feet by 25 feet, for the Midwest Company. The War Industries board is equally as insistent on the early completion of pumps for the Ranger Pipe Line Company in Texas, the Magnolia Pipe Line, same State. The Ranger line is in process of construction and is of 8- and 12-inch pipe. The pumps required are 6½ by 24 and 6 by 36, both horizon-

tal duplex and triplex. Altogether, the company is making at the present time eighteen pumps for the Prairie Pipe Line, six for the Magnolia, two for the Oklahoma and one for the Midwest Pipe Line, all under contract with the Fuel administration or War Industries board. These pumps when completed weigh 60,000, 90,000 and 185,000 pounds.

"Altogether, the work being done in the Oil City plant is 98 per cent. for the government. Thirty-eight per cent, approximately, is for ships, the remainder for oil and gas lines equipment, largely pumps. One of the most interesting phases of the work, however, is that on the 'recuperators.' These are forgings made by Carnegie Steel Company and sent here to be rough-planed and sent to other plants especially equipped for big gun manufacture in this country to be finished. These are for the French 155-millimeter guns (American measure about 6 inches). The recuperators for the 75-millimeter guns—about three inches—are finished at the National Transit shops and sent directly to France for completion. The shops there are splendidly equipped for this work, which leads all others, in the construction of guns, both large and small.

"The action of the Oil City plant in turning over its complete equipment to war work has been general throughout the country, and practically all other plants here have taken similar action, thus saving the government the expense of at least \$5,000,000 in the erection of a new plant—besides, the work is gotten out more rapidly."

*The United Natural Gas Company.*—The Oil City Fuel Supply Company bought the charter of an old company which had done some drilling and failed to find gas. This was done in the spring of 1883 by the new company, composed of E. Strong, president; O. H. Strong, secretary; R. W. Porterfield, treasurer.

Two other companies, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Natural Gas Company, which supplied Oil City, and the Manufacturers Gas Company, which also supplied Oil City, are now all united under the ownership of the United Natural Gas Company, which supplies all this region with gas for heat and light. The officers are: W. Raymond Cross, president; L. I. Graham, vice president and secretary; F. Sartorius, treasurer; W. P. Craig, general superintendent. This company looks after the comfort of its patrons and provides so far as possible a supply equal to the needs of a constantly increasing clientele. The luxury of cheap natural gas is one of the best of nature's blessings in this happy region. It helps to

make a contented people, which it is safe to say coal and its ashes never did.

The United Natural Gas Company owns and controls approximately three hundred thousand acres of territory, the greater part of which is tested, proved gas territory, and a lesser portion is what would properly be termed gas territory, not fully developed. On Jan. 1, 1917, it had approximately one thousand eight hundred producing gas wells, all connected to and producing into its lines during January and February all the gas they could produce; and at the same time and during the same period it was receiving from other producers, under contract, the full production of approximately five hundred other gas wells. The number of wells so controlled by the company was far greater than it ever had under its control previously, and the amount of gas produced by them far exceeds the company's previous production. This company has drilled forty-eight wells since the first of January, 1917, and more than forty strings of tools are now being operated continuously in drilling additional wells on the territory held by it.

*The Penn American Refining Company*, refiners of Pennsylvania petroleum, is a Pennsylvania corporation, operating two refineries: Plant No. 1, located at Rouseville, and Plant No. 2, located just outside of the limits of Oil City. The combined daily capacities of these two refineries is three thousand barrels of crude oil. The company does a general refining business, manufacturing all grades of lubricating and illuminating oils, gasoline, benzine and paraffin wax. It draws its supplies altogether from the Pennsylvania oil fields, and its products are marketed in this country and in Europe. The Penn American is undoubtedly the largest independent refining company in northwestern Pennsylvania, employing about 250 men.

This company was incorporated in the year 1894 under the name of Germania Refining Company. The present officers and directors are: C. L. Suhr, president and treasurer; Louis Walz, vice president; D. J. Cavanaugh, secretary; Louis Walz, D. J. Cavanaugh, E. C. Breene, C. H. Duncan, C. L. Suhr, directors.

*Reid Gas Engine Company.*—About 1878 Joseph Reid came to Oil City and established a general repair shop on Seneca street, opposite the present Odd Fellows building. He built a foundry back of the shop. In 1884 he went across to Elm street, to a property between those now occupied by the Swift's and by the Enterprise Milling Company. This property

had been used for a roller skating rink. He converted the building into a shop and built a foundry on the end of the lot near the railroad. In the early nineties he bought land on the corner of Elm and Duncomb streets for iron foundry, machine shop, barn and pattern shop, still keeping shop where the skating rink had been, and erected the building on the corner of Elm and Duncomb streets to make needed room for his growing business. He had already started the first brass foundry in the city in the building on Seneca street. This enabled him to send out burners of various kinds, for which he soon had a large sale. His foundries were burned down three times, and each time rebuilt, the last time of brick. The last building is still standing on Duncomb street, and is used by the company. Mr. Reid manufactured the first locomotive made in Oil City. This was to run in the lumber forests. The business continued to increase and he bought the land in the Third ward where the works now are, still retaining the shops on Duncomb and Elm streets. He first put up the machine and office buildings, followed by the pattern shop and blacksmith shop, and by the casting, cleaning and storage buildings. Soon after the production of the Lima oil began he manufactured many kinds of burners to consume this oil, which was for a time considered unfit for refining. In 1894 he put out the first Reid gas engine for use in the oil fields. This was a great achievement, the result of years of study to make a machine adapted to the end sought, namely, to make a power that did not require a trained mechanic to run it. The production at many wells was small, the price was low—dollar oil was then hoped for, and the owner of a small production could not expect to come out even unless he could keep his expenses at the lowest possible point. The power that would pump hour after hour and day after day, and, for that matter, month after month, without attention except to keep the cups of lubricating oil filled, was a godsend to the oil region. The engine is run by a mixture of natural gas and of air. Many gas engines are intended to be run with manufactured gas, which is unlike the natural gas, requiring a different proportion of air in the mixture. If natural gas is not obtainable the Reid engine can be run by using crude oil instead of gas. The engine is simple in construction, very strong, with few parts to get out of order, and with these parts easily replaceable from the factory, in fact the time when some new invention better adapted to oil country needs than the Reid shall be pro-

duced seems yet far off. The demand for the engine is absolute proof of this statement. The works have continued to grow with the wider distribution of their products. During the past year the number of men employed has been from 350 to 400. Only a few weeks ago a disastrous fire occurred which destroyed the machine shops with much valuable machinery, and the entire force of the works is now engaged in the task of rebuilding and replacing what was lost.

Besides the invaluable contribution which Joseph Reid made to the world in this gas engine there is a still farther one in the fact that he educated a number of men capable of understanding his work and of continuing it, and even of changing it to meet changed conditions if they arise. The present officers of the company are: W. O. Platt, president; John N. Reid, vice president; A. S. Turner, secretary and treasurer.

*The American Railway Appliance Company.*—Among the growing industries of Oil City is this company, whose officers are: Louis Schwartzkopf, president; L. E. Kellar, treasurer and general manager; D. K. James, secretary. The company manufactures railway appliances and oil well supplies, and it employs twenty-five men. There is an increasing demand for its products. It is located at No. 638 Seneca street.

*Continental Oil Refinery.*—This company is owned by the Anderton Estate. It has still capacity of one thousand barrels daily, manufacturing all the products obtainable from Pennsylvania crude oil, and gives employment to from forty to fifty men. The officers are: A. F. Anderton, president; Thomas A. Anderton, treasurer; J. W. Anderton, secretary. Their output is valuable, trade always increasing, and the concern is one of the city's solid institutions. The founder of the estate is deceased, but his good work is continued by his sons.

*The Independent Refinery* has a capacity of one thousand barrels daily, and produces also all the products of Pennsylvania crude oil. Their output is recognized as first class and is in constant demand. Eighty men are employed. This was one of the first refineries to be established, and its reputation has lived and grown with it. The officers of the company are: President, Samuel Messer; secretary and treasurer, E. P. Theobald; sales manager, Ralph Byles.

*The Crystal Oil Works* are owned by J. W. Fawcett and E. V. D. Selden. The daily capacity of this refinery is nine hundred barrels,

and a force of thirty-three employes is kept busy. It manufactures a high-grade automobile oil, illuminating oil, gasoline, neutral waxes, and all the other products of high-grade Pennsylvania oil. The excellence of the output is conceded. The name of this refinery may well be taken as an indication of the merit of its products.

*The Empire Works*, at Reno, owned by A. L. Confer, have a daily capacity of six hundred barrels, making all grades of lubricating and illuminating oil, neutral waxes, etc. Forty men are employed.

*The Reno Barrel Factory*, also owned by Mr. Confer, has a daily output of six hundred barrels, and employs from forty to forty-five men. The results of Mr. Confer's enterprises, whether from the refinery or the barrel works, rank in the 100 per cent. class. An interesting feature of these institutions is Mr. Confer's relations with his employes. He owns a tract of land in the vicinity of the works which he has cut up into building lots and sells on easy terms to workmen, assisting them in building homes. He has also secured a copious supply of pure spring water which is furnished to the residents at low rates. He is thus a kindly providence to those who are employed by him.

*The Rouseville Cooperage Company* is a growing concern. The members of this company are L. M., D. F., J. E. and Peter Manion, of Rouseville, Pa. They manufacture oil barrels. The company is well established in the trade, and the works have a capacity of ten to twelve hundred barrels a day.

*The Rush Barrel Works*, beginning in 1886 in a small way, have grown to a capacity of fifteen hundred barrels per day. Mr. Rush owns the cars in which to ship the output of his works, which is a great advantage. The works cover an area of about fifteen acres, and employ fifty-five men.

*The National Transit Company Pipe Lines.*—This is the company originally formed by the consolidation of the pipe lines centering at Oil City. It afterward became a part of the Standard Oil Pipe Lines, but at the time of the dissolution of the Standard it recovered its original individuality. It is a manufacturer of storage and of transportation. It is a common carrier. It has gathering lines extending throughout the oil fields of Pennsylvania, which are located in fourteen different counties, collects the oil in this State and delivers it to the local refineries. It also connects at various points with pipe lines reaching the seaboard at Philadelphia and Baltimore. It furnishes some Pennsylvania-grade oil which is

produced in West Virginia and Ohio. It neither buys nor sells, taking oil from the producer, storing it for a time without charge (giving him a credit balance for it), and delivers oil of the same grade and amount at any point on its line designated by the owner. If it is stored beyond a stated time a small storage charge is made. To note the work of the pipe lines: At first freight on a barrel of oil from the well in Pennsylvania to New York, for example, was about ten dollars. Now oil can be delivered in New York for twenty to thirty cents a barrel.

The officers of the company now are: W. V. Miller, president; F. D. Williams, vice president and general manager; D. R. Mackenzie, treasurer; A. W. Baumgart, assistant superintendent.

The development of these lines through the county forms an interesting and suggestive story. Many a successful man out in the wide world, far away from Venango county, looks back to the days when as college student, bent on earning money in the summer vacations, he worked for the company, going about with brush and paint and a stencil plate with the word "United" upon it. This was put on the pipes to indicate ownership. It was a fine and fitting task. To crawl about in the woods in places that seemed inaccessible, pushing aside ferns and moss, keeping sharp outlook for rattlesnakes or copperheads, quickened the senses and the observing powers. It was a worthy part of education with its views of sunrise and sunset, its healthy appetite, and, above all, the respect engendered by seeing what man had done.

*The Pittsburgh Filter Manufacturing Company* entered into the engineering and contracting business about the year 1903. The business of this company consisted principally of the complete engineering for filtration and water softening plants, also the manufacture and erection of the above. The manufacturing has been done in a great many factories because of the varied line of apparatus entering into the equipment of a filter and softening plant. This company have always done their own engineering, and have had such articles as gauges manufactured to their design and patterns by gauge factories, brass work manufactured in brass factories, cast-iron work manufactured at factories equipped for this class of work. However, business has grown to such a large extent that it has been found desirable to equip one large factory that would handle all of the above classes of work under one roof. This

has led to the purchase of the large plant formerly owned and operated by the Riverside Engine & Machine Company, West End, Oil City, Pa. Since this plant was taken over by the Pittsburgh Filter Manufacturing Company, about July 1, 1917, it has been rapidly improved and enlarged to furnish equipment for filtration plants for industrial purposes, water companies, cities and the United States government. During the year 1917 this company furnished and installed equipment for sixteen United States government water supplies at training camps, cantonments, nitrate plants, etc. The business of this company at present runs in the neighborhood of one and a half million dollars a year, and the payroll up to a quarter of a million dollars a year. The number of employes during the last year has averaged from 225 to 250.

The executive offices of this company since the beginning have been located in the Farmers Bank building, Pittsburgh, Pa. The officers are as follows: A. R. Fraser, president and treasurer; F. B. Leopold, first vice president; E. W. Bacharach, second vice president and Western manager; J. P. Myron, secretary; W. C. Dicken, assistant secretary; S. I. Connell, general superintendent.

*The Petroleum Telephone Company* originated through the efforts of Mr. P. H. Adams, of Erie, Pa., who, with the assistance of Mr. W. S. Paca as construction engineer, built a number of telephone exchanges throughout western Pennsylvania. The construction of the system, including Oil City, Franklin, Titusville and Pleasantville, was started in 1901, and continued under the direction of Mr. Adams until the early part of 1903, at which time he became involved in financial difficulties, and Messrs. P. M. Speer and W. S. Paca were appointed receivers for the company. Through their exertions the company was reorganized and started business under the new organization Feb. 22, 1904, with the following board of directors: P. M. Speer, R. G. Lamberton, Thomas Alexander, E. C. Hoag, E. T. Roberts, William B. Trask and W. S. Paca. Mr. Paca assumed the management at the time of the reorganization, and has continued in that responsibility up to the present time. In addition to the position of general manager, he has acted as engineer for the company, the entire system having been constructed under his direction.

Since the company was reorganized its business has increased about three hundred per cent, and its lines now very thoroughly cover the county of Venango and a part of Craw-

ford and Warren counties. The company now operates a total of about nine thousand stations, the main office being located at Nos. 1-3-5 Sycamore street, Oil City, Pa., in the fireproof office building that the company has constructed exclusively for its own business, the investment in the building and equipment of the building amounting to about one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. In addition to owning its building in Oil City, the company owns its buildings in Titusville, Pleasantville and Clintonville. The total valuation of the Petroleum Telephone system is close to one million dollars.

The Petroleum Telephone Company is rated as one of the most successful of the independent telephone companies in the country, operating more than three times as many telephones as does its competitor in the same territory. Through conservative management the company has been very prosperous, and in addition to paying six per cent on its bonds has been paying dividends at the rate of seven per cent on its common stock for a number of years. The present directors are: P. M. Speer, president; W. A. McMaster, vice president; R. G. Lamberton, Louis Walz, A. W. Hayes, Axtell J. Byles, and W. S. Paca. W. S. Paca is secretary and general manager, and Mr. C. M. Lamberton, treasurer.

#### EMLENTON

*The Emleton Refining Company*.—P. J. Bayer, president; H. J. Crawford, vice president; T. B. Gregory, secretary; Samuel Messer, treasurer. This refinery is also one of the Venango county manufacturers of Pennsylvania crude oil, therefore all its products are good.

*The Emleton Milling Company, Limited*, manufactures flour and feed. The mill is equipped with the latest machinery and has a daily capacity of one hundred barrels of flour. It has undoubtedly done away with a good many of the old-fashioned overshot water-wheel gristmills which formerly prevailed over a large section of the county. This is a natural and proper advancement of modern life; it saves the people from eating a good deal of stone dust. George F. Fox is manager of the company.

One point that gives satisfaction to the student of Venango county manufacturing plants is, that the men employed are all loyal citizens. Inspiring lines of men with banners and with bands turned out early and late to boost a

needed loan or to celebrate a joyous peace. Many nationalities were represented, but every man was an American in heart and in purpose. For such were the gates of Ellis Island opened,

and for such they will always be ajar! In the new democracy slowly and painfully unfolding in the world "all ye are brethren" will be the text most emphasized.

## CHAPTER XV

### BANKING—FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

#### HISTORY OF THE FRANKLIN BANKS—OIL CITY BANKS — EMLTON BANKS — CLINTONVILLE — BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Upon some pages, forgotten now, the following incident is recorded:

Twelve gentlemen were dining together as the guests of one of their number. There was a pause while the table was being cleared for the next course. The host says to his neighbor on the right, "Mr. B, I owe you five dollars, a little remnant of our business last week, I wish to pay it. Please accept this V, national currency." B replies: "Certainly, always willing to accommodate. I also am reminded that I am in debt to C, my *vis-a-vis*, just five dollars. It pleases me to pay him since our host has set the fashion." C also remembers, "since it is the latest dinner game," as he terms it, that he owes D five dollars and more and passes the bill along to him. D in turn passes the note to E "on account," and because he wishes to see "how far the new idea will go." Finally, between courses, well ahead of coffee and cigars, the bill reaches the last man, who sits at A's left and extinguishes five dollars of K's indebtedness to him. Here the guests became merry, since everyone at the table has now possessed the bill. But L, the last of the twelve, says: "Wait a moment before laughing; Mr. A, I owe you a small balance, more than five. Now take your medicine, return this bill to the original pocket and produce another receipt for this numerously receipted five-dollar bill. Lastly, Mr. A," continued L, "for I see the question in every face, why did you introduce this novel game?" "The question contains the answer—because it is novel, never heard of it being tried, perhaps it will not be tried again by twelve sedate business men. We've heard of the nimble sixpence. It is always worth while for men advanced in any profession to go back to the first primer of their business and regard again its clumsy pictured

alphabet. Our fiver was a lively one while it lasted. In a few minutes it paid considerable indebtedness."

This incident may have happened. There is nothing impossible in its collocation of facts, even in the idea that of twelve men associated in business, each one may have owed some one of the eleven others five or more dollars. While the possession of the bill apparently did not enrich its brief possessor, it enabled him to pay five dollars upon a debt which represented some service rendered. Service is the basis of wealth.

Currency or the circulating medium is necessary for the transaction and growth of business, both as a standard of value and for the settlement of balances. It does not create business, but it certainly clears the way for its easier and more rapid progress. Ninety-five per cent of the transactions of the country are effected through the credit of banks, the holders of the currency, by the passing of a few memoranda, rather than the counting of hundreds of thousands of currency coin or notes.

#### HISTORY OF THE FRANKLIN BANKS

THE LAMBERTON NATIONAL BANK OF FRANKLIN, PA., the oldest bank in Venango county, and the largest national bank in the city of Franklin, had its inception before the Civil war in the crude banking business done by the Hon. Robert Lambertson in connection with a general merchandising business, in a building known as the "National Hotel" but now occupied by store rooms, on the corner of Thirteenth and Otter streets. During the early days of the oil excitement some of the citizens of the county found it necessary to have a safe depositary for their money, and

Mr. Lamberton owning a large safe they would bring it in to him and he would give them credit for it on his store books. That was in 1859. With his characteristic shrewdness he saw that the community needed a bank, and when in 1860 he built the old Lamberton homestead, on the present site of the Y. M. C. A. building, he built a banking room in the corner, where he conducted a regular banking business under the name of R. Lamberton, Banker. This was the first bank in Venango county. It was conducted until March, 1873, when owing to Mr. Lamberton's failing health he retired and his interests were purchased by his son R. G. Lamberton, C. W. Gilfillan and R. L. Cochran, the latter formerly cashier of the First National Bank of Franklin. These gentlemen organized The Lamberton Savings Bank, Mr. C. W. Gilfillan being made president, and Mr. R. L. Cochran, cashier. They conducted this bank until 1883, when W. J. Lamberton and Harry Lamberton purchased the interest of R. L. Cochran, and Harry Lamberton became the cashier. About 1887 the owners of the bank found that it had outgrown its facilities and R. G. Lamberton built what was then considered the finest banking room in the county. The bank occupied this new building in the fall of that year. This institution continued as The Lamberton Savings Bank until October, 1899, when the owners, finding the national banking laws attractive, organized The Lamberton National Bank of Franklin with a capital of \$100,000. C. W. Gilfillan was elected its president, Harry Lamberton its vice president, and W. L. Gilfillan its cashier. At the death of C. W. Gilfillan, in 1901, Harry Lamberton was elected president, and R. G. Lamberton, vice president. In August, 1903, W. L. Gilfillan retired as cashier to accept the position of vice president of The Austin National Bank of Austin, Texas, and Chess Lamberton, who had been assistant cashier, was made cashier. The business of this institution grew to such an extent that in 1910 it purchased its present site on the corner of Thirteenth and Liberty streets and in July, 1912, moved into its present quarters, which are most modern and elaborate in every detail and considered the finest bank building in northwestern Pennsylvania. It is really a monument to the name of Lamberton, which has been synonymous with stability and conservatism in Venango county for more than half a century. From the inception of this institution until the present time wisdom has always characterized its policies and during the fifty-eight years of its

existence it has performed its full duty toward its customers, the public, and, in a marked degree, to the progress of Venango county and its material interests. It is eminently a safe, reliable banking house, and throughout its long history has never been known to embark in any questionable enterprise or deviate from the true principles that should govern every institution of this kind. The present officers of the bank are: President, Harry Lamberton; vice president, R. G. Lamberton; cashier, Chess Lamberton; assistant cashier, George J. Lamberton. These, with L. T. Lamberton, a retired merchant, compose the board of directors. This bank's present capital, surplus and undivided profits are \$363,489, and its present total resources are over \$2,678,183, showing a gain since July, 1912, when it moved into its new building, of \$96,489 in capital, surplus and undivided profits, and of \$778,183 in total resources.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK of Franklin, Pa., established in 1863, made the following report of its condition at the close of business June 29, 1918:

#### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts .....	\$ 790,421.25
United States Bonds and Certificates....	363,875.00
Other Bonds and Securities.....	241,495.00
Due from Federal Reserve Bank.....	78,897.82
Due from National Banks.....	383,495.38
Due from Other Banks and U. S. Treasurer .....	21,000.00
Cash on Hand .....	50,295.98
Overdrafts .....	45.73
Real Estate, Furniture and Fixtures....	42,500.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,972,026.16

#### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock .....	\$ 200,000.00
Surplus and Undivided Profits.....	223,490.38
National Bank Notes Outstanding.....	200,000.00
Deposits .....	1,348,535.78
	<hr/>
	\$1,972,026.16

The present officers of this bank are: Charles Miller, president; H. F. Grant, vice president; T. W. Officer, cashier; C. B. Dolsen, assistant cashier; directors: Charles Miller, T. W. Officer, H. F. Grant, J. French Miller, Bryan H. Osborne, George C. Miller.

THE FRANKLIN TRUST COMPANY was organized in 1901 by Orrin Dubbs Bleakley, who has been its president ever since. One son, Rollin R. Bleakley, is treasurer; and another son, Wayne W. Bleakley, is assistant treasurer. The latter, however, although still

holding this office, is now in the service of the United States government.

From 1883 until about 1900 Orrin D. Bleakley and his brothers carried on the International Bank, and about 1900 he became the sole owner, purchasing the interest of his brothers. The International Bank was opened in 1868 by James Bleakley, in the building on Liberty street which he had erected in 1849. He had entered the banking business in 1854 in connection with a general merchandise business, and afterward, in 1863, organized the First National Bank of Franklin, of which he was cashier from that time until 1867. He was president of the International Bank, which he started in 1868, and continued as president until his death, Oct. 3, 1883, his sons succeeding him.

The Franklin Trust Company was capitalized upon its organization at \$500,000, with a surplus fund of \$50,000, and its deposits were less than \$500,000. Since that time the surplus fund has been increased to exceed \$250,000, and the deposits have increased to exceed \$2,500,000, in addition to which it has a trust business of over \$1,000,000. The officers at the present time are: O. D. Bleakley, president; Homer C. Crawford, vice president; Rollin R. Bleakley, vice president and treasurer; William E. Ross, secretary; Wayne W. Bleakley, assistant treasurer; Clyde M. Miller, assistant secretary. The directors comprise the following: O. D. Bleakley, Homer C. Crawford, B. Haskell, E. W. Snook, Dr. J. W. Leadenham, Dr. J. M. Murdoch, Rollin R. Bleakley, Mendal B. Miller, A. J. Sibley, Jacob Sheasley.

THE EXCHANGE BANK of Franklin was established in January, 1871, with John L. Mitchell, president, and P. McGough, cashier, and during the first year its quarters were in the "Exchange Hotel" building, whence the bank removed to its present location, corner of Liberty and Thirteenth streets. On June 20, 1888, it was incorporated under the State law with a capital of \$100,000, and there is now a large surplus. Daniel Grimm, one of the first stockholders in the original establishment, and who became a director shortly after the organization, has been president since Jan. 6, 1912, with George B. Woodburn, vice president; E. K. Myers, cashier; Daniel Grimm, George B. Woodburn, J. Howard Smiley, C. C. Hillier, John F. Leasgang, W. M. Bell, Clayton W. Cone, John L. Nesbit, E. E. Grimm, and G. E. Glines, directors.

The law governing the organization of this

bank applies to all banks of deposit and discount doing business under a State charter. As there are two other such banks in the county, a summary of the general provisions of the law as contained in the following statement is of interest:

#### STATEMENT

##### ORGANIZATION, INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY, DUTIES OF OFFICERS

This Bank was incorporated June 20, 1888, under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act for the Incorporation and Regulation of Banks of Discount and Deposit," approved May 13, 1876. That Act provides among other things:

"That the stockholders shall be individually responsible for all debts of the corporation to the amount of their stock therein, at the par value thereof, in addition to the par value of such shares."

"That on each dividend day the cashier shall make a full, explicit and accurate statement of the condition of the corporation as it shall be on each day previous to the declaring of such dividend to be verified by the oaths of the president and cashier."

This duty has been strictly performed by the cashier and president twice every year since the incorporation of the bank, and the full record of such performance has been as often laid before the directors and is still preserved for their inspection.

The same statute requires the board of directors to exact from the cashier and all other persons necessary for executing the business of the corporation, bonds, with surety to be approved by the court, conditioned for the faithful performance of their respective duties. Such bonds have been exacted and, the sureties therein having in every instance been approved by the court, have been recorded in the office for recording deeds in Venango County, where they remain for the benefit of all persons interested, whether as shareholders or patrons of the bank.

The by-laws of the bank require the maintenance of a discount committee of three members of the board of directors; such committee is maintained and meets daily, and by it every application for a loan must be examined and approved or rejected, and a record of such approvals kept.

The statute creating the Banking Department of Pennsylvania requires every bank subject to its supervision to make to the Commissioner of Banking not less than two reports during each year, verified by the oath of the cashier, and attested as correct by the signatures of at least three of the directors, exhibiting in detail the resources and liabilities of the corporation at the close of business on any past day specified by the Commissioner, and to publish abstract summaries of such reports in a newspaper at the place where the bank is located.

In addition to the official examination by the State Banking Department, duly made and published, the directors of The Exchange Bank of Franklin, following an established custom, herewith present to its shareholders and patrons the independent report, made after a full and careful examination by The Audit Company of New York.

In every particular the officers and directors of The Exchange Bank of Franklin hold to the spirit

as well as to the letter of the laws that should govern a conservative banking institution; with equal and fair treatment for all, and special favors for none.

The large measure of success, and consequent usefulness to the community served, attest the popularity with the people of a financial medium which has no favors to ask, nor obligations to discharge other than the faithful administration of its business.

*Report of Condition of the*  
**EXCHANGE BANK OF FRANKLIN**

Franklin, Pa., at the close of business June 20, 1918:

## *RESOURCES*

Reserve Fund:	
Cash, specie and notes.....	\$ 93,878.25
Due from Approved Re-serve Agents .....	238,485.58
Nickels and cents .....	435.46
Checks and cash items.....	7,753.34
Due from Banks and Trust Cos., etc., excluding reserve .....	406.57
Bills discounted:	
Upon one name .....	25,683.30
Bills discounted:	
Upon two or more names.....	90,964.89
Time Loans with collateral .....	46,680.50
Call loans with collateral .....	491,095.41
Loans secured by bonds and mortgages .....	7,001.73
Loans on call: Upon one name.....	93,047.16
Loans on call: Upon two or more names .....	97,644.36
Bonds, stocks, etc.....	378,435.15
Mortgages and judgments of record..	584,486.04
Office building and lot .....	55,000.00
Other real estate.....	19,754.25
Furniture and fixtures.....	2,835.00
Overdrafts .....	566.15
Other assets not included in above....	5,217.02
Total .....	\$ 2,248,370.16

## LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus.....	300,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid .....	54,084.88
Demand deposits:	
Deposits subject to check .....	\$ 609,353.27
Certified checks .....	3,310.21
Cashier's checks outstanding .....	17,566.68
Time deposits:	
Time certificates of deposit .....	620.32
Savings fund deposits..	1,144,632.27
Due to Banks, Trust Cos., etc., excluding reserve .....	1,775,482.75
Dividends unpaid .....	1,280.03
Other liabilities not included in above, reserve for interest .....	22.50
 Total .....	 \$ 2,248,370.16

**State of Pennsylvania, County of Venango, ss:**  
**I, E. K. Myers, Cashier of the above named Bank,**

do solemnly swear that the above statement is true  
to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) E. K. MYERS, Cashier.  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of

July, 1918. Mary B. Evans, N.Y., P.M.

(Signed) MARY B. ECKERT, Notary Public.  
Correct Attest:

**Correct—Attest:**  
**(Signed)**

(Signed)

D. GRIMM,  
W. M. BELL,  
JOHN L. NESBIT,  
*Directors.*

## OIL CITY BANKS

C. V. CULVER'S BANK was the first established in Oil City. This was in 1861 and the office was placed in charge of John H. Coleman. It was one of the Culver system, and was afterward merged into the First National Bank.

THE OIL CITY BANK, incorporated in 1864, did a large business for a few years. C. Heydrick of Franklin was president, John W. Eddy, cashier. The latter was succeeded by J. B. Candy. It was a bank of issue, and one of the institutions established by C. V. Culver, during the early period of the oil excitement. The failure of the great banking house of Culver, Penn & Company, of New York, March 27, 1866, forced the suspension of the Oil City Bank, and its doors were not afterward opened.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK was organized Nov. 5, 1863, and chartered on Jan. 5th following, with a capital of \$100,000. William A. Shreve was chosen president, with J. H. Coleman as cashier. The directors were: William A. Shreve, William Hasson, J. J. Vandergrift, William Brough, M. La Mont Bagg, William L. Lay, Conrad Reiter, George Cornwall and William C. Tillson.

The changes in directors have been as follows: 1864, J. H. Coleman, vice Bagg; 1865, L. E. Beebe and C. M. Titus, vice Reiter and Brough; 1866, W. H. Beers, I. C. Vanhook and C. Robson, vice Tillson, Coleman and Shreve; 1867-68, A. L. Bennett, vice Vanhook, Beebe and Titus; 1869, H. I. Beers, vice W. H. Beers; 1870-71, Vandergrift and Lay withdrew; 1872, L. P. M. Spencer, vice Bennett; 1873-75, H. M. Choate, vice Spencer; 1876, C. A. Cornen, vice Choate; and from 1877 to 1889 the directorate was unchanged except C. A. Cooper, vice Robson. The directors at present are as follows: William Hasson, James Hasson, William J. Breene, Edmond C. Breene, D. O. Moran.

Mr. Shreve was succeeded as president by

William Hasson, the present incumbent, Jan. 9, 1866.

Up to 1870 the bank was located on Main street, when it was removed to its present location, corner Seneca and Center streets. After the wooden structure was destroyed by fire the present handsome and commodious four-story brick block was erected by the banking company.

Cashiers have succeeded Mr. Coleman in the following order: W. C. Rehren, Jan. 12, 1864; John Walker, Jan. 18, 1865; A. L. Bennett, May 13, 1865; L. P. M. Spencer, April 1, 1872; H. M. Choate, May 9, 1872; James A. Waugh, Aug. 20, 1875; R. C. Beveridge, Dec. 31, 1878; and John M. Berry, Feb. 7, 1885, the present holder of the office.

The present resources and liabilities of the bank are shown by the report at the close of business June 29, 1918:

#### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts .....	\$ 66,581.47
Bonds and Securities .....	269,751.00
Banking House, Furniture and Fixtures.	64,450.00
Redemption Fund .....	2,500.00
Cash and due from Banks.....	404,072.58
	<hr/>
	\$1,407,355.05

#### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock .....	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus and Undivided Profits.....	110,237.39
Circulation .....	50,000.00
Deposits .....	1,147,117.66
	<hr/>
	\$1,407,355.05

THE LAMBERTON NATIONAL BANK of Oil City is the outgrowth of a banking business started in 1862 by Robert Lamberton and his son-in-law, Calvin W. Gilfillan, and operated as the Lamberton Bank of Oil City until reorganized in 1900 under the present title. Upon Robert Lamberton's retirement from the bank, because of ill health, he sold out to C. W. Gilfillan, R. L. Cochran, and his son, R. G. Lamberton, the latter being now president; S. H. Lamberton, vice president; Charles M. Lamberton, cashier; E. S. Rugh, assistant cashier; R. G. Lamberton, S. H. Lamberton, C. M. Lamberton, Chess Lamberton and Harry Lamberton, directors. Capital, \$100,000.

The Lamberton National Bank is a depository for State, United States and United States Postal funds. According to the report made Sept. 17, 1917, it has a surplus of over \$400,000, circulation of \$100,000 and deposits of \$3,390,193.74, and a business record which places it among the "Roll of Honor" banks,

those "possessing surplus and profits in excess of capital, thus giving tangible evidence of strength and security." In points of surplus and undivided profits to capital in the year 1915 it was first in the city and county, twenty-seventh in the State, and fifty-sixth in the United States. (See notice of merger below.)

#### Report of Condition of the

#### LAMBERTON NATIONAL BANK

At Oil City, in the State of Pennsylvania, at the close of business on Aug. 31, 1918:

#### RESOURCES

Loans and discounts .....	\$2,834,849.48
	<hr/>
Total loans .....	\$2,834,849.48
Overdrafts, secured, \$1,916.18; unsecured, \$2,306.60 .....	4,222.78
U. S. bonds (other than Liberty Bonds, but in- cluding U. S. certificates of indebtedness):	
U. S. bonds deposited to secure circulation (par value) .....	\$ 100,000.00
U. S. bonds and certi- ficates of indebtedness pledged to secure U. S. deposits (par value)....	10,000.00
U. S. Bonds and certi- ficates owned and un- pledged .....	100,000.00
	<hr/>
Liberty Loan bonds:	
Liberty Loan Bonds, 3½, 4, and 4¼ per cent, un- pledged .....	18,000.00
	<hr/>
Bonds, securities, etc., (other than U. S.):	
Bonds other than U. S. bonds pledged to secure postal savings deposits	5,000.00
Securities other than U. S. bonds (not including stocks) o w n e d un- pledged .....	14,892.25
	<hr/>
Total bonds, securities, etc., other than U. S.	19,892.25
Stock of Federal Reserve Bank (50 per cent of subscription) .....	9,000.00
Furniture and fixtures....	18,000.00
Real estate owned other than banking house....	1,100.00
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank..	177,866.54
Cash in vault and net amounts due from na- tional Banks .....	589,148.11
Net amounts due from banks, b a n k e r s , and trust companies .....	262.40

Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank.....	\$ 3,963.98	bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Checks on banks located outside of city or town of reporting bank and other cash items.....	7,541.45	C. M. LAMBERTON, <i>Cashier.</i>
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer..	5,000.00	Correct—Attest:
War Savings Certificates and Thrift Stamps actually owned .....	1,460.45	ROBT. LAMBERTON, S. H. LAMBERTON, CHESS LAMBERTON, <i>Directors.</i>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,900,307.44</b>	Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of September, 1918.
<b>JOHN M. MCGILL,</b> <i>Notary Public.</i>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 100,000.00	THE OIL CITY NATIONAL BANK was started
Surplus fund (earned)...	200,000.00	Aug. 15, 1865, as the Oil City Savings Bank, with George W. Cochran as president. His successors have been William Thompson, John Mawhinney, William Parker, Amos P. Dale, H. H. Stephenson, George W. Parker and George N. Reed, who has been president since 1913. H. G. Rush and W. O. Innis are the vice presidents; Fred C. McGill, cashier; J. B. Crawford, W. Raymond Cross, H. H. James, W. O. Platt, E. W. Chase, Edward Siederman, H. H. Stephenson and H. J. Crawford, directors. Associated with Mr. Cochran in the organization were T. B. Porteous, James Miller, William Parker, W. J. Kountz, William Phillips, W. B. Riddle, John Mawhinney and William Thompson. S. D. Herron was the first cashier, resigning shortly afterward, when H. H. Stephenson took the position, holding it for thirty-eight years, until he became president. He served in that capacity until 1911, and has since been a director. The bank was reorganized under its present title Jan. 1, 1900. Original capital, \$80,000; present capital, \$100,000. It occupies its own building at the corner of Elm and Center streets, acquiring the site about 1874. It was originally located on Main street, near Bridge street, moving thence to quarters in Wurster meat market building on Main street before coming to the present location. (See notice of merger below.)
Undivided profits (earned) .....	\$ 236,095.36	
Less current expenses, interest and taxes paid..	19,164.30	
Circulating notes outstanding .....	216,931.06	
Amount due to Federal Reserve Bank .....	98,500.00	
Net amounts due to National banks .....	152.57	
Total of Items due banks .....	917.48	
Demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve (deposits payable within 30 days):		
Individual deposits subject to check.....	879,021.89	
Certified checks .....	1,523.17	
Total of demand deposits subject to Reserve .....	880,545.06	
Time deposits subject to Reserve (payable after 30 days, or subject to 30 days or more notice, and postal savings):		
Certificates of deposit (other than for money borrowed) .....	881,848.31	
Postal Savings Deposits.	3,753.66	
Other time deposits.....	1,507,659.30	
Total of time deposits subject to Reserve.....	2,393,261.27	
United States deposits (other than postal savings):		
Other United States deposits, including deposits of U. S. disbursing officers .....	10,000.00	
Total .....	10,000.00	
	\$3,900,307.44	
<b>RESOURCES</b>		
Loans and discounts.....	\$1,169,878.22	
Deduct:		
Notes and bills rediscounted (other than bank acceptances sold)	155,455.07	
Overdrafts, unsecured ...		\$1,014,423.15
		69.70

State of Pennsylvania, County of Venango, ss:  
I, C. M. Lamberton, Cashier of the above-named  
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## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

U. S. bonds (other than Liberty Bonds, but including U. S. certificates of indebtedness):		Amount reserved for all interest accrued .....	\$ 2,129.50
U. S. bonds deposited to secure circulation (par value) .....	\$100,000.00	Circulating notes outstanding .....	99,100.00
U. S. bonds and certificates of indebtedness pledged to secure U. S. deposits (par value)...	80,000.00	Net amounts due to National banks .....	2,738.75
U. S. bonds and certificates of indebtedness owned and unpledged..	30,000.00	Net amounts due to banks, bankers, and trust companies .....	23,537.96
Liberty Loan bonds:		Total of above Items..	\$ 26,276.71
Liberty Loan Bonds, 3½, 4 and 4¼ per cent, unpledged .....	44,550.00	Demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve (deposits payable within 30 days):	
Liberty Loan Bonds, 3½, 4 and 4¼ per cent, pledged to secure State or other deposits or bills payable .....	44,550.00	Individual deposits subject to check .....	820,249.78
Bonds, securities, etc., (other than U. S.):		Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days....	102,000.00
Bonds (other than U. S. bonds) pledged to secure postal savings deposits .....	4,974.14	Certified checks .....	50.00
Stocks, other than Federal Reserve Bank stock....	3,100.00	Cashier's checks outstanding .....	1,676.00
Stock of Federal Reserve Bank (50 per cent of subscription) .....	4,950.00	Dividends unpaid .....	10.00
Value of banking house..	19,000.00	Total demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve .....	923,985.78
Furniture and fixtures...	2,249.70	Time deposits subject to Reserve (payable after 30 days. or subject to 30 days or more notice, and postal savings):	
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank ....	143,307.09	Certificates of deposit (other than for money borrowed) .....	104,518.27
Cash in vault and net amounts due from national banks .....	83,089.78	Postal Savings deposits..	1,691.75
Net amounts due from banks, b a n k e r s , and trust companies .....	28,665.60	Other time deposits.....	213,002.42
Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank .....	7,914.27	Total of time deposits subject to Reserve....	319,212.44
Total of above Items..	119,669.65	United States deposits (other than postal savings):	
Checks on banks located outside of city or town of reporting bank and other cash items.....	1,023.36	War loan deposit account	16,000.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer..	5,000.00	Liabilities other than those above stated .....	1,875.00
War Savings Certificates and Thrift Stamps actually owned .....	4,703.52	Total .....	\$1,578,002.16
Other assets, if any.....	981.85		
Total .....	\$1,578,002.16		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Capital stock paid in.....	\$ 100,000.00		
Surplus fund .....	65,000.00		
Undivided profits .....	\$ 31,628.27		
Less current expenses, interest, and taxes paid..	7,205.54		
	24,422.73		

State of Pennsylvania, County of Venango, ss:  
I, Fred C. McGill, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

FRED C. MCGILL, Cashier.

Correct—Attest:

GEO. N. REED,

W. O. PLATT,

RAYMOND CROSS,

Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of September, 1918.

HAROLD T. PARKER, Notary Public.

My commission expires March 9, 1919.

THE OIL CITY TRUST COMPANY commenced business Nov. 1, 1871, in the Love block (now the Opera House) at the head of Center street, with a capital of \$90,000, and the following officers: George V. Forman, president; Henry L. Davis, cashier; directors, George V. Forman, J. J. Vandergrift, J. J. Lawrence, O. B.

Goodwin, J. M. Pitcairn, Jr., Peter Schreiber, Charles F. Thumm, J. R. Campbell, Henry L. Davis.

This bank took a leading place in business as soon as it was opened, and in the first two or three years of its existence had forged ahead of the older banks in the city. In 1873 Henry L. Davis resigned as cashier to accept a position in Philadelphia, and was succeeded by W. M. Rolph, acting cashier, and then by W. J. Young, cashier. During 1873 the Trust Company moved from the Loyer block to its own building at the corner of Seneca and Sycamore streets, which it now occupies. At this time the officers were: George V. Forman, president; J. J. Vandergrift, vice president; W. J. Young, cashier.

In 1880 Mr. Forman moved from Oil City and S. T. Vandergrift was elected president; W. J. Young, vice president; George H. Moorhead, cashier; Charles M. Loomis, teller.

Until 1883 the bank was operated as a partnership, but in that year secured a charter as a State bank under the laws of Pennsylvania. The capital then was \$150,000; surplus, \$24,000; deposits, \$118,000. Officers: W. J. Young, president; W. J. Hulings, vice president; A. B. Davitt, cashier; directors, M. Geary, T. A. McLaughlin, W. J. Hulings, J. R. Campbell, M. Lowentritt, J. J. Vandergrift, George P. Hukill, W. J. Young.

In 1884 Charles M. Loomis succeeded Mr. Davitt as cashier, and held office until he died in 1905.

On Jan. 12, 1892, Joseph Seep was elected president and continues to hold said office at this date (1918). On the same date M. Lowentritt was elected to the office of vice president, and held same until he died in 1899. On June 30, 1899, George Lewis was elected vice president to succeed M. Lowentritt, and held said office until his death, in 1912.

On Jan. 14, 1905, H. R. Merritt was elected secretary and treasurer to succeed Charles M. Loomis, deceased.

On June 1, 1907, the company moved into improved and enlarged quarters at the same location.

On Jan. 14, 1913, the list of officers elected consisted of Joseph Seep, president; D. T. Borland and H. R. Merritt, vice presidents; Frederick Fair, treasurer; A. K. Helle, assistant treasurer; and these officers are in charge of the affairs of the company at present writing.

The Oil City Trust Company continues to be one of the largest and strongest financial

institutions in northwestern Pennsylvania, and their statement of Sept. 21, 1918 (report of the Commissioner of Banking) shows the following:

#### RESOURCES

Time Loans .....	\$3,930,911.64
Real Estate .....	55,000.00
Furniture and Fixtures...	1.00
Stocks and Bonds .....	\$2,375,981.02
Demand Loans .....	1,411,317.41
Overdrafts .....	14.68
Cash and Exchange.....	1,017,738.44
Total Quick Assets.....	4,805,051.55
 Total .....	\$8,790,964.19
Trust Funds not included in above .....	\$2,234,310.77

#### LIABILITIES

Capital, Surplus and Profits.....	\$1,376,874.65
U. S. Bond Account.....	300,000.00
Reserved and Unearned Interest.....	99,014.59
U. S. Govt. and Other Deposits.....	7,015,074.95
 Total .....	\$8,790,964.19
Corporate Trusts .....	\$2,480,000.00

F. W. MITCHELL & COMPANY, a private banking house, was composed, at its organization, Nov. 3, 1873, of three partners, F. W. Mitchell, George V. Forman and T. H. Steel. Its capital was \$50,000. Their building at the corner of Sycamore and Elm streets has been the location from the first. The only changes in business occurred in 1875, when Mr. Forman withdrew, and in 1882, when Mr. W. H. Wise became a partner, and the increase in capital on July 31, 1877, to \$100,000. Mr. Steel was cashier from its organization. This bank enjoyed a high degree of prosperity for a number of years. It was regarded as one of the safest and soundest of like institutions in the county. In the nineties, the firm withdrew from the banking business in this city.

THE CITIZENS BANKING COMPANY was organized in 1902 with the following officers: President, H. M. Nichols; cashier, N. L. Freeman; assistant cashier, W. C. Ferry; directors, H. M. Nichols, W. J. Magee, John D. Rynd, D. K. Johnston, H. A. Downs, Dr. August Morck, Henry McSweeney. This is a bank of deposit and discount, operated under a State charter. It is located at the corner of State and First streets.

*Report of the Condition of*  
**CITIZENS BANKING COMPANY**

**Oil City, Venango County, Pa., at the close of business Sept. 21, 1918:**

## *RESOURCES*

Reserve Fund:	
Cash, specie and notes.....	\$ 63,408.00
Due from approved reserve agents .....	<u>164,131.61</u>
	\$ 227,539.61
Nickels and cents .....	359.48
Checks and cash items.....	2,834.80
Bills discounted:	
Upon one name .....	106,063.69
Upon two or more names.....	144,879.58
Time loans with collateral.....	123,587.74
Call loans with collateral.....	123,587.74
Loans secured by bonds and mortgages	
Loans on call:	
Upon one name .....	191,797.88
Upon two or more names.....	219,711.83
Bonds, stock, etc. ....	147,506.65
Other real estate .....	6,750.00
Furniture and fixtures .....	12,998.00
Overdrafts .....	2,870.22
Total .....	\$ 1,313,201.83

## ***LIABILITIES***

Capital stock paid in cash.....	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus .....	25,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid .....	34,520.92
Demand Deposits:	
Deposits subject to check..	\$391,830.52
Deposits, Commonwealth of Pa. ....	15,000.00
Certified checks .....	216.04
Cashier's checks outstanding .....	<u>5,713.43</u>
Time Deposits:	
Time certificates of deposit	52,121.75
Savings fund deposits.....	<u>688,889.17</u>
Total .....	<u>\$1,313,291.83</u>

**State of Pennsylvania, County of Venango, ss:**

I, W. L. Freeman, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) W. L. FREEMAN, Cashier.  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day  
of September.

(Signed) ELIZABETH MULLIGAN,  
*Notary Public.*

My commission expires Feb. 19, 1921.  
(Signed) H. M. NICHOLS,  
AUGUST MORCK,  
JOHN D. RYND,  
*Directors.*

The bank officials of the Lamberton National Bank and the Oil City National Bank have recently announced a merger of the two

institutions, the new bank to be known as the Oil City National Bank and to occupy the present quarters of the Lamberton National Bank. It will conduct a trust department, which is now permitted by the law governing national banks. There will thus be three classes of customers appealed to by the new institution. The Lamberton was made a national bank in 1900, and since that time its assets have grown from three fourths of a million to five and one fourth million dollars. Since 1899, when the Oil City National took over the business of the Oil City Savings Bank, its resources have increased from \$380,000 to \$1,800,000. It also shows a growth of more than sixty-five per cent during the last two years. The directors of the Lamberton National Bank and the Oil City National Bank are, respectively: R. G. Lamberton, S. H. Lamberton, C. M. Lamberton, Harry Lamberton; and George N. Reed, H. G. Rush, W. O. Innis, H. H. James, Raymond Cross, H. J. Crawford, W. O. Platt, E. W. Chase, Ed. Siederman, J. B. Crawford.

The new bank will have great financial strength and the good will of the community, since all its directors are men of the highest standing. The only regret is that there will be the passing of the name "Lamberton Bank." But the Lambertons who made the bank what it is will remain, and their influence will continue. R. G. Lamberton and S. H. Lamberton have been associated with the bank both before and since it became a national bank, for a half century. C. M. Lamberton, who has been the cashier of the Oil City Lamberton National Bank since it was chartered, Aug. 31, 1900, will also remain. Owning one third of the capital stock, his interests and those of the bank were identical. His position brought him into close relations with the public, where his personality counted. His management has been careful, and his desire to be of real service to the public has made hosts of friends for the institution, and undoubtedly constituted a chief factor in the remarkable increase of the bank's assets in the last nineteen years. The same ideals and the friendly policies which have characterized both of these banks in the past will be extended into the future by the new institution.

EMLENTON BANKS

THE EMLENTON BANK was organized on July 23, 1873, by the following parties, who were its first directors: Messrs. James Bennett, Marcus Hulings, Robert W. Porterfield,

Henry E. Bradley, James W. Rowland, R. L. Cochran and C. H. Vanschaick, at this time as a State bank. The first officers were: James Bennett, president; Marcus Hulings, vice president; James W. Rowland, cashier. The capital stock was \$10,000. The bank was made a national bank on Aug. 3, 1891, with the following gentlemen as its first board of directors: James Bennett, J. M. Dickey, M. C. Treat, Ebin Crawford and James W. Rowland, with James Bennett as president, J. M. Dickey, vice president, and James W. Rowland, cashier. The original capital of the national bank was \$50,000, which was later increased to \$100,000.

This is perhaps the most remarkable bank in the country, considering the size of the town and the amount of the bank's resources. The population of Emlenton in 1910 was 1,110; deposits, \$1,580,624.12, would average \$1,414.98 for each inhabitant, with another strong bank to hear from. Its present officers are: H. J. Crawford, president; S. W. Phillips and T. B. Gregory, vice presidents; H. M. Lynn, cashier; C. C. King, assistant cashier; directors, H. J. Crawford, S. W. Phillips, Harry Heasley, T. B. Gregory, H. B. Mitchell. The condensed statement of the bank's condition, March 4, 1918, shows:

#### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts .....	\$1,327,640.05
U. S. Bonds, Securities, etc. ....	316,029.00
Real Estate, Furniture and Fixtures....	18,000.00
Cash and Due from Banks .....	316,309.55
Due from U. S. Treasurer.....	5,000.00

\$1,982,978.60

#### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock .....	\$ 100,000.00
Surplus and Profits .....	203,454.48
Circulation .....	98,900.00
Deposits .....	1,580,624.12

\$1,982,978.60

THE FARMERS' NATIONAL BANK of Emlenton was organized in 1900, with J. A. Weller, president; J. M. Grant, vice president; H. J. Slicker, vice president; F. L. Bottomfield, cashier; R. H. Perrine, assistant cashier. The capital is \$50,000; surplus, \$5,000; undivided profits, \$13,000; deposits, \$326,000; loans and discounts, \$198,000; U. S. Bonds, \$50,000; other bonds and securities, \$77,000; due from other banks, \$45,000; cash on hand, \$19,000. The large amount of deposits is abundant evidence of the confidence of the people in the stability of this bank. It also combines the

statement, implied above, that Emlenton is a large place, financially.

#### CLINTONVILLE

THE PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK of Clintonville was organized in 1908, when George A. Rumsey, of Clintonville, became president, and he has continued to be the head of the institution ever since. Assisting him in the organization were T. B. Gregory, H. J. Crawford, George W. Crawford, M. J. McKinley, S. W. Phillips and C. E. Crawford, all still members of the board of directors except C. E. Crawford, who died in 1917. He was also vice president, an office now filled by H. J. Crawford. James A. Lawson, the original cashier, was succeeded by James S. Forbes in 1916 and both are members of the board of directors. Mr. Harry Heasley is one of the stockholders, who for the most part are Emlenton men and well versed in financial operations, conducting eight or ten banks in this part of the State. The Peoples National Bank occupies the building formerly used by the old Clinton Bank of the late Thomas McKee, which was founded in 1877, and which became a national bank in 1902. The First National Bank closed business in 1908, and the Peoples National bought the banking house from the government. Mr. Rumsey and his associates have placed the business of the bank upon a sound basis. The capital is \$25,000, but the deposits exceed three hundred thousand dollars, a condition which testifies fully to the standing of the bank in the community. The directors have thorough faith in the good judgment and ability of their president, and he has endeavored to justify their confidence in him by the most careful consideration of every matter submitted to him. The details of the business are ably handled by J. S. Forbes, cashier, and his assistant, Miss Mary Cross. The condensed statement of condition on June 29, 1918, follows, which should be supplemented with the information that the deposits have shown a handsome increase since:

#### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts .....	\$291,096.95
U. S. Bonds .....	24,700.00
Banking House, Furniture and Fixtures..	3,000.00
Cash and Due from Banks.....	62,507.31
Due from U. S. Treasurer.....	1,100.00

\$382,404.26

#### LIABILITIES

Capital .....	\$ 25,000.00
Surplus .....	20,000.00

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Undivided Profits .....	\$ 7,598.12
Circulation .....	22,000.00
Deposits .....	307,806.14
	<hr/>
	\$382,404.26

## BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Oil City has three. *The Citizens Savings and Loan Association*, authorized capital \$10,000,000 in shares of \$200 each, holds meetings at the Oil City Trust Company the third Monday of each month, from six-thirty to nine P. M.; or payments can be made at any time at the Oil City Trust Company, for credit of the association. President, B. H. Carnahan; vice president, Ludwig Meyer; treasurer, A. K. Helle; secretary, E. W. Egan; solicitor, F. W. Hays; auditor, H. A. Brewster; directors, J. T. Egan, F. E. Brundage, Joseph Levi, D. T. Borland, W. W. Holt, F. W. Hays, H. R. Merritt, J. G. Skelly, W. K. Borland; finance committee, Joseph Levi, E. W. Egan.

*Home Savings and Loan Association*, capital, \$10,000,000, shares \$100 each, meets at the office of J. R. Gates Sons on the 20th of each month, from seven to nine P. M.; or payments may be made at any time to the Citizens Banking Company, for credit of the association.

President, E. V. D. Selden; vice president, W. S. McCuen; treasurer, M. S. Gates; secretary, Frank P. Thompson; solicitor, Harold T. Parker.

*People's Building and Loan Association* meets in the Oil City National Bank building on the second Monday of each month, six-thirty to nine P. M.; payments may be made at any time to the Oil City National Bank or Citizens Banking Company, for credit of the association. President, William G. Heerlein; vice president, Henry G. Walter; treasurer, John G. Stephenson; secretary, Wilmer I. Rehr; auditor, T. J. Callanan. The capital stock of this association shall not exceed five thousand shares of \$200 each. The stock shall be issued semi-annually, in April and October, in such amounts as the board of managers shall determine.

In Franklin there is one such organization, the *Venango Building and Loan Association*, Liberty and Twelfth streets, which meets at the First National Bank building on the first Monday of each month, seven-thirty P. M. President, Robert F. Glenn; vice president, F. W. Officer; secretary, Nathan Evans; treasurer, E. E. Bleakley; auditor, T. B. Salter.

## CHAPTER XVI

## AGRICULTURE—HORTICULTURE

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**POSSIBILITIES IN VENANGO COUNTY—SOME NOTABLE FARMS—FARM BUREAU—THRIVING VENTURES—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND FAIRS—FRANKLIN CENTENNIAL—RECENT EXHIBITS—PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY—HARVEST HOME ASSOCIATION**

The development of agriculture in Venango county, and the sentiment which accompanies it, is one of the most notable features of the present day. It is not so many years ago that the farm boy looked with longing eyes toward the town, and back with something akin to dismay and dislike upon the pastures and fields in which his father's herds fed and had to be milked. The man with the hoe was a pitiable figure, but the boy who felt that life was just one prolonged row to hoe was at times tragic in his bewilderment. To him the sunrise and the sunset meant little beyond the tasks which they would shine down on and upon the never-ending round of toil. That in a few years this reluctant and uninterested youth would be

returning from courses given at institutions provided by a wise State and would fall to his work with enthusiastic appreciation of its merits, its delights and its rewards, is to-day an accomplished fact. Agriculture, which lies at the foundation of all life, is no longer accounted the device for compelling reluctant men to go on year after year with little to reward them for their hard work and its privations. The scientific courses now so generally taken by young men who expect to engage in farming as a profession, as others turn to law and gospel and medicine, have rendered a service to humanity that is to-day being appreciated the world over.

## POSSIBILITIES IN VENANGO COUNTY

Venango county never was so in earnest as now in the problems of farming and intensive gardening. It never had such fine examples of success. The county to-day faces this condition: The inhabitants outside the cities having stripped off the timber which required many centuries to grow, and having practically used up ninety-five per cent of the iron, oil, gas and coal which were produced in past geologic ages, now have simply the land left. This condition is, however, full of hope rather than of discouragement. The manufacturing interests of the two cities of the county have attained a marvelous development. They are sending their output to all parts of the world, so that the sun shines always on machinery manufactured in Oil City and in Franklin. The mechanics in the county furnish the best market possible, for the reason that it is the nearest market, and one that is capable of paying spot cash for everything that can be produced in the county. There is much good soil in Venango. The difficulty has been in its poor treatment and the lack of understanding of its possibilities and of its defects. This is being gradually overcome by the spread of scientific knowledge, both by the students of the colleges and the practical demonstrations which for a few years past have been conducted on so large a scale that they are now famous in many other aspiring counties. It must be thoroughly understood that agriculture must support all other activities and employments. The objection is frequently made that the land is poor, but it can be improved, and, in fact, be made to produce better and larger crops from year to year. This is proved historically, for the best land in the world is that which has been cultivated the longest, and has been cropped as often as possible. Actually, agriculture is the only art in which more and more can be taken from the source of supply and still leave the source stronger and more productive than before. There are innumerable cases on record in which a good farmer has bought so-called poor land, supported himself and family for years upon it, and then sold it for a much higher price than he gave for it; afterward buying larger farms until he became a farm baron. A superstition oppresses the mind of man that land may become worn out, exhausted and useless. This is worse in its immediate effect than a belief in ghosts. As a matter of fact plants do not grow out of the soil—they do not take much from it. They may be said rather to grow from the air, and

the soil is just a resting place for the roots. The soil water, being supplied with certain manures and fertilizers, absorbs the gases upon which the plants feed, provided the soil is kept in the right degree of fineness about the roots. No roots will grow in chunks of dirt. Some of the best land in Venango county exhibits a sad spectacle on account of the poor treatment it has received. Riding through some of the finest land that can be found anywhere, we find farm after farm that has the appearance of being abandoned. The buildings are run down and dilapidated, level fields exhibiting their fertility by showing immense crops of weeds. The owners may resemble the old gentleman spoken of in another chapter, who thought "farmin' was too slow," and have gone afar to seek sudden riches, neglecting their "acres of diamonds" which might be found in fields of potatoes, grain or corn. In the French Creek valley there are lands that have produced as many bushels of corn to the acre as any of the famous prairie lands of the West. Hundreds of such acres lie unimproved in this county. When a proper amount of thought is given to their improvement this condition will be changed.

The following statement by Mr. F. F. Murray, a well known writer of this county and of Pittsburgh, is worth considering in this connection. Mr. Murray was born and reared upon a farm in Plum township, and still has his summer home there. He is well acquainted with conditions in the northwest part of the county and has been an interested observer of other sections:

"The present population of Plum township is about one thousand—possibly slightly below rather than above that figure. There is a small oil production, chiefly from the first sand at three points in the township, in the southeast and southwest corners and in the angle between Chapmanville, Sunville and Wallaceville. There are some present operations along the north line of the township, but they are as yet without profitable returns, either as to oil or gas. It is believed that some further spots will be found productive of oil, but in this, of course, it may be, as in many other regions, that 'the wish is father to the thought.'

"There is a gristmill at Wallaceville and two or three sawmills of transient location, but no special manufacturing or industrial plants.

"In former years there were numerous cooper shops which did a thriving business, the fine white oak timber available being manufactured into barrels for the then booming oil business along Oil creek, but these vanished long ago,

together with the timber that supplied them. Many other activities related to both the oil business and the timber have gone, and the future of the township, *like nearly all others in the county*, must depend upon other activities, principally upon farming, fruit and stockraising, and kindred developments. To these things attention is being turned with the decline of the oil interest and the exhaustion of the timber, and the next few years will witness marked progress in the direction of these hitherto neglected resources. There are good farming and stock possibilities, and as to fruit-growing the prospects are excellent. Of apples particularly none can be grown anywhere of finer body and flavor. The present chief lack of the township is represented in the want of outlets through better roads, and when such roads have been obtained Plum township will not consider itself second to any in the county, either in the natural character of its resources or the character of their development."

Mr. Murray's statements are fittingly emphasized by the fact that in January, 1919, four wool fleeces were sent to the agricultural exhibit at Harrisburg, through the Venango County Farm Bureau, for which three prizes were awarded. William Allen, of Wesley, won second prize in the half-blood class; John S. Wright of Cooperstown, the third prize in the quarter-blood class, and J. H. Lusher, of Rockland township, was awarded fourth prize in the same class. This is the first exhibit made by Venango farmers at the State agricultural show. It is believed that these results may lead to a much larger representation from here next year. Sheep ranges could be easily provided upon thousands of acres now unproductive except of weeds, briars and underbrush, to the great benefit of the land and of the owners' bank accounts. It is a common remark that the home-grown lambs furnish the most delicious meat. Suitable arrangements with dogs should not be longer delayed.

In this connection, mention may be made of the fine exhibits of cattle, swine, sheep, horses and poultry which were made at all the later fairs held in the county. Equally notable was the display of farm products—the various grains which can be grown here, and clovers, including alfalfa, valuable soil enrichers or restorers of exhausted or so-called worn out land. Simply astounding has been the display of fruits on all occasions of general exhibits, not only in the number of varieties, but in their quality. Pears, plums, cherries, the vine and brier fruits, are common; peaches and grapes thrive on the southward-looking slope. But the

apples are a distinct class. When the trees are pruned and sprayed, and the fruit is carefully gathered and sorted, it equals in appearance the Western "commercial" apple, its chief selling point. The Venango selected apple, in addition to beauty of form, size and coloring, has the flavor of the best, even of the Hudson river valley apples, or of the lakeside orchards of New York and Canada, which command the highest prices in the markets of Europe.

#### SOME NOTABLE FARMS

In those parts of the county where the most has been made of agriculture, and of all that the term broadly includes, the influence is seen of two wise men who many years ago had vision and the practical means of converting idealism into reality, a combination of faculties that does not too often obtain. The names of Miller and Sibley are inseparably connected with the best in the gradual advancement of Venango county farming and horticulture. Messrs. Charles Miller and J. C. Sibley were owners about thirty years ago of one of the best equipped, and one of the largest and most favorably known, of any breeding establishments. There were at that time near Franklin three separate tracts belonging to this farm; the first was known as The Fair Ground Farm, comprising about 190 acres and containing the principal buildings; the Galena Farm, located on the west side of the Pittsburgh pike, between Franklin and Uniontown, contained twenty-five acres, used mostly for pasturage; the third was called the Prospect Hill Farm, located in Sandy Creek township, six miles southeast of Franklin, containing nearly 200 acres. On this farm the first silo built west of the Allegheny mountains was erected. It had a capacity of 240 tons. This firm began its career as stock raisers after acquiring sufficient means to obtain the most desirable animals regardless of cost. The first purchase was a Jersey bull for two thousand, five hundred dollars, an unprecedented sum for that time. Shortly afterward the firm purchased from A. B. Darling, New York City, Michael Angelo, 10,116, a highly bred son of Eurotas, a calf only six weeks old, paying twelve thousand, five hundred dollars cash. This price was the highest ever paid for an individual of this breed, and probably is still. These are a few examples of the stock and indicate the standard of the owners. The same high standard has been maintained at their present farms, J. C. Sibley's River Ridge Farm and General Miller's Rosemont Farm. The farmers of Ve-

nango county have thus had opportunity to improve their stock and to learn without delay and expense the best methods of caring for them and getting the best results. Great advances have been made by these men in the matters of seed testing, fertilizing, cropping and fruit raising. From both these farms thousands of plants have been sent out for testing, and when the war gardens were started the plants were given freely to all who would take them and use them. Land was also donated to be used for the supply of patriotic food. At River Ridge Farm a yearly demonstration of methods is given. Farmers are invited to come and spend the day and the occasion is in the nature of a prophetic harvest picnic.

Other farmers who are making a fine demonstration of what can be done with the land of this county are R. G. Lamberton, who started and developed the Argeon Farm, which was afterward bought by J. C. Sibley and renamed River Ridge Farm. Additions have been made to the property and attention has been given to horticulture as well as to other branches of industry. Many men are employed, and are under the management of J. L. Hanna. R. G. Lamberton has another farm, named Argeon Hill, lying in the Sugar Creek valley. The same advanced methods characterize this new venture of Mr. Lamberton that made his other farm notable.

Daniel Grimm has a model farm in Sugar Creek valley, which is distinguished by the application of the methods best adapted to bring out the possibilities of the soil. Mr. Grimm gives personal attention to the various experiments undertaken and applies business principles to the interesting work carried on at his farm.

W. W. Splane has lately turned his attention to the science of farming. He purchased a large oil farm, and believing in its possibilities decided also to develop it on the agricultural side. He engaged a superintendent and sent him to State College to take a course of study, and later supplied him with the most modern instruments used in farming. Mr. Splane's idea may easily prove an inspiration to others who have overlooked the fact that much may be done along the line of agricultural improvement even where oil is present underneath the soil. Mr. Splane's desire to increase the food supply comes directly from the patriotic impulse to help his country in the time of necessity.

S. Y. Ramage has several farms which he is working along modern lines. Like the others

already named, he has purchased tractors and other machinery of the latest invention. He is greatly interested in the subject and has given much attention to the various puzzling problems arising from time to time.

#### FARM BUREAU

There are many comparatively small farms which are being carried on in accordance with the best ideas. In fact, so strong is the sentiment in favor of going "over the top" in the food and farm drive that it was possible to establish last year a Farm Bureau with a paid expert at the head of it, Mr. H. H. Haverstick, of State College, who is beginning his second year under favorable auspices. Arthur Seep, S. Y. Ramage and other men interested have been advocates of the Farm Bureau for some time.

#### THRIVING VENTURES

In methods of cropping the Schruers Brothers are deserving of mention. They are successful market gardeners, who understand how to make their business pay. This is certainly an important part of the program. They have studied the subject scientifically as well as practically. They have taken courses in State College. These young men practice the rotation of crops and the growth and turning under of green manure according to the well known fact that a farmer can raise all the nitrogen he needs for his crops. They are well established in their business and are held in high esteem.

Walter Deyoe has succeeded in his chosen work as florist and his business has become an institution of Oil City. From a small greenhouse begun by him as a boy his plant has grown to be a large and fine addition to the city's decorative possibilities.

Myron E. Hoover, of Oil City, is also doing good work along the line of raising vegetables and flowering plants. He has built up a thriving business.

The Bell Floral Company of Franklin is doing much to help along the good taste of the people in choosing and developing the best floral and vegetable plants. The company is incorporated, Anna Bell being secretary and treasurer; Edward Bell, manager. Their green houses are located at Niles, Pennsylvania.

A well known florist also is Gilson Shaffer, at Maple Dale.

The Oakwood Farm and Garden Company was organized by O. H. Strong, president; H.

B. Beatty, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Strong had given much attention to rose culture in an amateur way, and in 1885 he decided to make a business of raising roses. Six hundred acres of land were purchased in Cranberry township, with the proper characteristics of altitude, drainage and exposure. Here he erected suitable buildings and the business was established in the spring of 1886. Eight greenhouses 300 feet long and 21 feet wide, and one 100 feet long and 70 feet wide, were started in 1885; two, 300 by 15 feet, were added in 1887; and three others of the same size in 1888. These aggregated 22,300 square feet devoted to rose culture principally. The company specialized upon twelve different kinds of roses, Pearle Des Jardins, Niphotos, Bride, William Francis Bennett, Papa Gondier, Bon Silene, American Beauty, Catherine Mennet, La France, Souvenir De Wootton, Sunset and Madame Cusin, which were grown exclusively for cut flower purposes. The success attending the cultivation of these exquisite flowers was deserved. Orders came from all quarters. Washington was glad to place them in the White House for a beloved president's wife. New York hotels blossomed with them. For a number of years the largest orders for cut flowers from Chicago came to Oakwood Gardens. Locally the education in beauty was advanced. The generosity of Mr. Strong and of Mr. Beatty was in evidence on every hand. The churches were recipients of gifts not once in a while, but every Sunday. Brides carried their flowers and homes of grief were touched with the spirit of kindness and of comfort. On first Bird Day in the schools of America in Oil City every school room in the city was adorned with American Beauty roses, a gift from Oakwood. As an aid to the growth of the roses a commercial dairy was found necessary. As an element of successful agriculture cows are indispensable. Oakwood to-day is sustaining its well earned reputation. The present secretary and treasurer is Mrs. M. L. Simpson, Mr. Strong's daughter; C. W. Kennedy is general manager. Oakwood is still one of the largest growers of choice rosebuds in the country. Carnations, sweet peas, chrysanthemums, smilax and asparagus plumosus are also developed. Flowers are delivered to steamers sailing from all ports. The beautiful idea of Mr. Strong is still blossoming.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND FAIRS

Many efforts have been made in the years that are gone to build up agricultural societies.

As far back as 1838 one was started, and a meeting was held in the courthouse by those who favored the movement. Arrangements were made for effecting a permanent organization. Nothing further seems to have been done, at all events this society held no fair. The *Venango County Society* was organized in 1851 at the courthouse. The president elected was David Phipps, Scrubgrass. The vice presidents were Robert Riddle, Scrubgrass; William Short, Sandy Creek; Isaac B. Rowe, Franklin; Jamies Hughes, Sr., Cranberry; Joshua Davis, Rockland; Joseph Porterfield, Richland; William Wright, Canal; John Boozer, Sugar Creek; Oliver McKissick, French Creek; W. W. Shaw, Jackson; David Reynolds, Oakland; William Cowan, Plum; James Strawbridge, Cherrytree; William T. Neill, Allegheny; P. H. Siverly, Cornplanter; Robert P. Elliott, President; Asbel Holeman, Tionesta; David Elliott, Pinegrove. The corresponding secretary was E. S. Durban, Franklin; recording secretary, C. P. Ramsdell, Franklin; treasurer, R. A. Brashear, Franklin; librarian, Samuel F. Dale, Franklin.

The first fair was held in Franklin in the Third ward, which was then in Sugar Creek township. The exhibit included horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, farm, garden and orchard products, agricultural implements, and many articles of domestic manufacture. Only one fair was held at this place.

Ground was secured on Buffalo street in 1853, where the Union school building stands, and exhibitions were held there until October, 1861, when the oil excitement occupied the public attention. The minutes of the meetings, containing the names of the officers, disappeared. The society, considering the condition of the county at that time, was highly creditable to the management, and was helpful to the agricultural interests.

Various counties united to form an association called the *Emlenton Union Agricultural Society*. It did not exist long, but held one creditable fair in 1858. The Venango county men who served as vice presidents were: Elias Widdell, Emlenton; Joshua Davis, Richland; Daniel Smith, Rockland; J. Craig, Scrubgrass; William Christy, Clinton; John J. Kilgore, Irwin. The recording secretary was W. W. Patton, Emlenton; corresponding secretary, Dr. J. McMichael, Emlenton; treasurer, A. B. Crawford, Emlenton; librarian, H. Gormley, Emlenton.

The Venango County Agricultural Association was incorporated Aug. 22, 1872. Grounds were leased in the Third ward of Franklin and

suitable buildings erected thereon at a cost of eight thousand dollars. It might have been called a driving park association with more propriety, as trials of speed constituted the leading features of the exhibitions. Financially it was not a success; the lease, privileges, etc., were sold at sheriff's sale and purchased by a comparatively small number of the citizens of Franklin. At a meeting of representative citizens of the different townships and boroughs of the county, Feb. 18, 1874, they offered to surrender all the franchises of the association to an agricultural society for the sum of two thousand dollars cash and the payment annually of half the rent, reserving the right to use the driving course when the grounds were not occupied for exhibitions. This proposition was favorably considered and measures taken for the formation of the proposed new association. A second meeting occurred April 15, 1874, Alexander Frazier, Canal township, presiding, when a variety of matters connected with county fairs were considered and discussed. The agitation was continued throughout the following summer, and in January, 1875, at a public meeting in the courthouse, a permanent organization was effected with the following officers: President, Alexander Frazier; vice president, Justus Egbert; secretary, R. L. Cochran; directors, S. M. Lupher, H. Clulow, John Bell, W. C. Barber, Thomas McKee, R. S. Bonnett, Calvin Ritchey; auditors, J. P. Byers, T. W. Smiley, G. A. McKinley. Two fairs were held under the auspices of this association, in the autumn of 1875 and 1876, respectively, and both were regarded as fairly successful.

*Venango County Agricultural Society.*—The county fairs held by the *County Association* in 1875 and 1876 met with moderate success, but for some reason the association entered upon a period of suspended animation. In 1880 the agricultural fair idea was again resuscitated. An association was organized at Hanna's hall Jan. 6th, known as the Venango County Agricultural Society, whose duties were distributed among the following officers: President, A. G. Egbert, of Franklin; vice president, William Bean, of Canal; secretary, Henry H. Ware, of Franklin; assistant secretary, C. A. McClintock, Dempseytown; treasurer, J. L. Hanna, of Franklin; directors, James Anderson of Scrubgrass, James Russell of French Creek, G. W. Mays of Rockland, W. R. Crawford of Franklin, E. E. Clapp of President, William Foster of Canal, and Henry F. James of Sugar Creek.

A tract of land was purchased in Sugar

Creek adjacent to the Third ward of Franklin by the president, and suitable buildings were erected, at an expense of several thousand dollars, to which the society contributed one thousand, paying five hundred dollars rental annually and leasing the grounds for a period of ten years.

A new and very interesting feature was introduced in 1882, by holding the fair under the joint control of the officers of the society and of a committee appointed by the Teachers' Institute of the county. An educational exhibit, to which all the schools of the cities, boroughs and country districts contributed, aroused the most intense interest ever noted at a Venango fair before or since that time. Vegetables and fruits, horses, swine, sheep and cattle from the hills, the tempting products of the churning and of the cook stoves, the magic webs of the housewife's loom and of the needle, the quilt of a thousand pieces in flamboyant colors, chickens, ducks, geese and little pigs most delightful—all these were there and received attention; but the main interest was focused upon the exhibition of the work done in the schools by the children. The State superintendent of public instruction, E. E. Higbee, and the president of the Grove City College, Rev. J. C. Ketler, marched to the fair grounds at the head of five thousand school children, where after the school exhibits had been inspected these educational leaders made addresses. Prizes amounting to over a thousand dollars were distributed for excellence in school work.

This society held nine exhibitions including that of 1888, and in all the educational feature was present, though not to the same extent as in 1882. The society was incorporated April 20, 1882. Sometime prior to 1888 the grounds were purchased from Dr. A. G. Egbert by Messrs. Miller and Sibley, who assumed the obligations of the society, and liquidated all claims against it, amounting to about five thousand dollars. The lease, which would have expired in 1889, was canceled in 1888. No fair was held in 1889, though the organization continued for some time. Charles Miller was the last president, elected in 1886, and James Miller was also elected secretary the same year. E. W. Echols served as the treasurer from 1885. It is difficult to determine just when the dissolution of an agricultural association occurs; it has no common breath with which to expire at a given moment. One function after another ceases, till finally none are left. This society, however, deserves the gratitude of the whole county for its inspiring effect upon the

work of the schools. It is true that its influence upon them was unique in the history of such institutions, here or elsewhere.

*Franklin Centennial*

The grounds were preserved under the generous ownership of Messrs. Miller and Sibley in shape to answer all the desires of the public for exhibition purposes. In 1895 was staged on the Miller and Sibley grounds one of the greatest exhibitions ever given by a city the size of Franklin. This was the Centennial of the town of Franklin, just one hundred years after the first lines were drawn by the surveyors to represent her streets and parks. The story of every one of those years was told graphically by silent objects preserved and still followed by tender care as they were brought into the present. There were articles of wearing apparel, household utensils, ancient farming tools, the paraphernalia of frontier life,—all having power to make vivid pictures of the past. More than a hundred of the children of the forest were present to add to the reality of the look backward. A sham battle was held. Through the hundred years their battle yell continued to the present, its echoes still answering one another from the banks of French creek and of the Allegheny. Their method of attack upon the settlers, by creeping stealthily upon them, while they were in the fields at work, was fully shown; refuge was found in the block house, and the white men succeeded in driving off their savage foes. It is a grievous thought that this was a common experience of the frontiersmen of Pennsylvania and of the neighboring States for seventy-five years; truly those people often "ate their bread in tears." In this battle, the whites have the advantage of a century, and one of their number, Henry F. James of Franklin, was a chief newly made, of the tribe of the Wolf; but there was realism enough in the play to recall with startling emphasis past dangers and horrors.

From the speakers' stand the orators pictured the beginning and development of the city, its harsh environment in the wilderness, its strangle-hold upon difficulties, its slow growth in civic life, its rapid advancement to the proud present. Mayor Forbes welcomed the visitors to the city "busy with most of the various pursuits of advanced civilization," in striking contrast to a century earlier, when there was scarcely a white man living within the nearest hundred square miles. His pleasing introduction was followed by the carefully

prepared and valuable historical address of Judge Heydrick, and by the speech of J. H. Osmer, glowing with patriotism. Upon the second day, the speech makers were Hon. Charles W. Mackey, upon the theme "The Men Who Have Made Franklin Famous"; Hon. George Criswell, whose basic thought, that amid all progress "Manhood is the one immortal thing, Beneath time's changeful sky," was sustained by the supreme audience; Logan, the Indian orator, who acknowledged his debt to those responsible for the entertainment, noting that the contrast made by the hundred years showed what a wonderful people the whites are, and hoping that Mayor Forbes and Chief Henry F. James may be present at the next centennial; Harry W. Lamberton, who came all the way from Minnesota, and was gladly received by his former townsmen; Father Lambing, president of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, noting the presence of the aborigines and discoursing instructively upon the fact that we have learned a great deal from them, the great Romans of America; Hon. Alexander McDowell, whose relationship to Venango county he denied with little success, by hoping that in the future "all may meet once more in the better land of Mercer."

Space forbids mention of all the features of this celebration. The sports deserve attention. There were Indian races, one for the maidens, in which Ella Scotty was first, Mary Lay, second, and Minnie Jack, third; a sprint for four young Indians, Kelly Lay, first, and Frank Kenjockey, second. Two lacrosse games arranged between teams of Cattaraugus and Allegheny reservations were watched and attracted great interest. Perhaps it was remembered that a similar game, a hundred and thirty-two years before these, introduced the massacre at Fort Venango, and the return of the whole region to desolation for twenty-five years. Collections of various kinds fully exhibited the home interests and fashions of Franklin life both in the far, and the near past.

But the outstanding feature of the week was the representation of the rise and progress of the manufacturing interests of the city. This was shown by floats in procession miles long. Practically every industry of the city's hive was illustrated by machines in operation, in their primary forms and in their full development. The change wrought by oil and gas, those genii of the rocks, was evident. How their gifts, surpassing all dreams, were utilized so that there

should be no waste, how they were prepared for market, the manner of applying them to the production of power, the multiplicity of products formed from them—all these were shown simply but completely. All changes wrought in the pioneer settlement through the hundred years up to the marvelous present, appeared in the same picture. One felt that a magician's wand, waved in the heart of the wilds, had instantly produced this new city, strong, aggressive, wealth-producing, beautiful, endowed with the spirit and intelligence of a great country. The world has seldom seen such a picture.

*Oil City Fair and Trotting Association.*—The quiescence of the Venango Agricultural Society, for a number of years before and after Franklin's Centennial, encouraged a number of Oil City's progressive citizens to organize a County Fair and Trotting Association. Among others were the following: Amos Steffee, Mayor, president of the Association first three years; F. W. Bowen, vice president; I. N. Hinderliter, secretary; John M. Berry, treasurer. All these officers were for the year 1900, except the president. The directors were: A. R. Smart, J. J. Saltzmann, J. H. Conner, P. C. Boyle, H. L. Dale, A. Gilbert, D. J. Geary, Amos Steffee, F. W. Bowen. There was a somewhat different set of officers for 1898 and 1899, with the exception of President Steffee, from those named for 1900. Hon. William Hasson gave a deed for thirty-six acres, more or less, to the association, without reversion. This was Mr. Hasson's third gift to the city, the first having been six acres for a hospital, and the second about forty-four acres for a public park. The grounds were put in order during the spring and summer of 1898. On June 14th the race track had been constructed, the fences and needed buildings were only partly erected; but upon this date, in honor of the State Encampment of the G. A. R., which was meeting in Oil City at this time, the grounds were opened to the public, and the delegates to the Encampment were invited, as the special guests of the Fair Association, to view the grounds and partake of a luncheon of roast ox, sandwiches, and burgoo soup. The guests were conveyed to the grounds in carriages, and seats reserved for them. "The general public is also invited," President Steffee announced; "everybody come. We will feed you all; this fair will be a hummer." The invitation was accepted. Thousands went up the hill, saw the grounds, and were fed with portions of the two oxen which experienced cooks had been

preparing for twenty-four hours, using the drippings for the "burgoo," and freshly baked bread. Many took the tin cups and spoons as souvenirs. President Steffee's characterization, "This fair will be a hummer," became a local slogan for the next two years.

The first fair was held in September, 1898, and as an exhibition was an unqualified success, the attendance surpassing expectation and the quality and number of exhibits amazing. Mr. J. K. Earp, the secretary during this first year, stated recently that friends of his from distant cities who saw the exhibit still speak of the excellence of "the fair you were managing back in '98 at Oil City." The premium list indicates the scope of the fair. Note the following summary:

DEPT. No. 1, J. K. Earp, Supt., Horses; 12 classes, 90 prizes.

DEPT. No. 2, John Fornof, Supt., Cattle; 10 classes, 82 prizes.

DEPT. No. 3, John Fornof, Supt., Sheep; 13 classes, 69 prizes.

DEPT. No. 4, John Fornof, Supt., Swine; 8 classes, 39 prizes.

DEPT. No. 5, Joseph Blacker, Supt., Poultry; 130 prizes.

DEPT. No. 6, D. August, Supt., L. L. Graham, Asst., Farm Products; 99 prizes. Fruits, same supts., 50 prizes. Butter, bread, cakes, pies, preserves, pickles and all cooked fruits, etc., same supts., 100 prizes.

DEPT. No. 7, H. H. Rand, Supt., Ladies' Handwork; 90 prizes. Supt. H. H. Rand and Assts., Fine Arts, water colors, drawings, oil paintings, pastel, photographs, china painting, miscellaneous painting; 37 prizes.

DEPT. No. 8, Agricultural Instruments, admitted free, including Oil and Musical Instruments; 119 diplomas of excellence apparent. Plants and flowers; 5 prizes, \$3 to \$6. Family Exhibit, showing production of a family on farm in all departments: \$20, first prize; \$10 second prize; \$5 third prize.

Additional prizes numbering one hundred or more were offered by the merchants of Oil City and the citizens of Venango county to farmers and gardeners of Venango County only. Very desirable were these prizes, varying from suits of woolen clothes to boots, ladies' umbrellas, a barrel of flour, \$200 cash or a Jersey bull (this only to the Grange making best exhibit), clothes wringer, a year's subscription to a daily paper, parlor lamp—all with the one exception noted for the best six onions, or for the largest egg-plant or other collection. There was a ham for the biggest sunflower, or a pair of custom-made trousers

for the best blackberry pie; and so on the alluring offers continued.

The races during the fairs were enjoyed by all, even by the ladies, and children especially. A fast track—the best oblong half-mile in the country the horsemen said, pure air, a fine outlook, good water, and the absence of the objectionable features of some "hoss" races, contributed to the general pleasure.

In all, four fairs were held, the last in 1901. The grounds soon after were sold on a mortgage foreclosure for \$5,000, with interest for a number of years added. Several gentlemen paid the mortgage and other claims, and continued the Trotting Association for seven or eight years longer as a part of the Iron and Oil League. The last race was held in 1908 or 1909, the land still remaining in the hands of those who paid the mortgage; but they have not yet decided what to do with it. Probably it will be turned into building lots, as the city has grown up to it and nearly around it.

#### RECENT EXHIBITS

Recently various exhibits have been made of fruits and vegetables and of the products of the domestic arts and sciences, and also poultry exhibits by the Farm Bureau and by poultry organizations. The matter has assumed practical shape, so that it seems to need no accessories to draw the attention of a people newly awakened to the growth, development and conservation of food and other objects of solicitude and of necessity in a world striving toward better things.

Not as lost, or mistimed, or as without value for the future, should the work or expense of

the Venango fairs be regarded. They are worth to-day all they cost, and more. The knowledge gained and interest aroused will reappear in the future. Exhibits of special products locally, and generally by counties and by the State, the presence of farmers' clubs and institutes, and the desire among farmers to keep up with the procession, showing pride in their work—all these indicate that appreciation of the importance of agriculture is here.

#### PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

The Grange has had a number of organizations in Venango county. But for some reason the interest was frequently short lived, and other groups of people took their places. The Cooperstown Grange, instituted in 1874, was one of the most flourishing, but it too did not survive. A list of the present Granges in the county will be found in Chapter XX, Fraternal and Social Organizations.

#### HARVEST HOME ASSOCIATION

Harvest Home Associations have become popular. Utica, Dempseytown, Chapmanville and other points in the county entertain great gatherings, usually in August and September. They are like the old-fashioned neighborhood picnics, with the addition of numbers made possible by the automobile, and are really delightful occasions. They are often made the Mecca for aspiring politicians. Here eloquence may be offered to all who will listen, and the candidate with the strongest voice is reasonably sure of getting the most votes.

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## CHAPTER XVII

### THE PRESS

*(Emma W. Babcock)*

FRANKLIN NEWSPAPERS—EMLTON—SENECA—PITHOLE—RENO—PLEASANTVILLE — ROUSEVILLE  
—COOPERSTOWN—OIL CITY

Like all other ambitious American towns those of the oil country had their days and even years of experimental journalism. Newspapers were conceded to be a necessity, but

few men had the financial courage of their convictions and dared risk good money in an enterprise so hazardous. The small town editor and publisher has his peculiar problems,

and in 1820, the date at which the first Venango county paper is thought to have been issued, the towns were small and the problems large.

#### FRANKLIN NEWSPAPERS

The *Venango Herald*, of Franklin, is the first on record as having lived long. It is a pity that files of this early paper are not obtainable. Its publication office was in a little log house at the corner of Twelfth and Liberty streets. The *Herald* was a small sheet costing two dollars a year. This was to be paid in advance. John Evans, who established the paper, was born in Washington county, and came with his parents to Meadville, where education was in the air. He assimilated enough to be ambitious, and came to Franklin to live, became interested in politics, and held many offices. He was postmaster, county treasurer and sheriff, and was commissioned colonel of militia in 1839. By his marriage to Rachel Hemphill, a daughter of William Connely, he had twelve children. His death occurred Nov. 30, 1871.

The exact date of the birth of the *Venango Democrat* is uncertain, but it is believed to have been in March, 1823. The county treasurer, George McClelland, was the senior member of the firm of publishers. John Little took charge of the mechanical part of the publication and was one of the firm. In 1849 this paper became merged into the *Spectator*.

In the autumn of 1829 the *Democratic Republican* was started by Little & Tucker, publishers. It is said that no editorial matter was printed in it, and the suggestion of its contents was given by its name and the addition of the words "Anti-Masonic Examiner."

Alexander McCalmont, brother-in-law to John Evans, became financially interested in the *Herald*, it is said. John Little made an impression upon this paper, although he left his own paper literally with all its assets and liabilities and left the town of Franklin at the same time.

After many vicissitudes the *Democrat* began a somewhat regular career in 1828, when it was bought by John Galbraith, a Huntingdon man who had learned the printer's trade. He was a young lawyer of promise and was highly esteemed in Franklin. He was elected to the legislature and was re-elected three times, a most unusual thing, and he became a Congressman in 1838. He died in Erie, his new home, where he had been made president judge. Jonathan Ayres, John Hunter and Sylvester Randall took charge of the *Democrat* for Mr. Gal-

braith. John S. McCalmont, afterward president judge of this county, and William Galbraith, afterward president judge of Erie county, were apprentices and worked diligently on this paper. Dr. George R. Espy and other Democrats purchased it and carried it on for a time, when John W. Shugert was urged to buy the paper and was given his own time to pay off the debt. He gave four hundred and fifty dollars for it and said it was not worth fifty. However, he published it for four years and has left it on record that they were four years of strenuous effort. When he was elected sheriff, he leased it to John E. Lapsley, who bought an interest after a time, but upon Lapsley's death, a year later, Shugert claimed that the paper belonged to him. Matters were adjusted and the publication was sold to leading Democrats, Arnold Plumer and George Connely among them.

In 1842 another paper was launched upon the journalistic sea, *The Democratic Arch*, issued by James Bleakley and John W. Shugert. It became at once a paper of absorbing interest, for the personal animosities of the publishers, added to the political fire, made things exceedingly warm in Franklin. Later it was absorbed, and under new management lost the popular appeal to some extent.

*The Venango Spectator* succeeded various Democratic papers, and its history is not unlike all those struggling sheets which flourish in a hostile atmosphere. Its editors were men of ability. The founder, A. P. Whitaker, established the publication with the hope of building up a permanent paper which would grow with the country. Others connected with it were James Bleakley, R. L. Cochran and John W. Shugert, all men of pronounced talent. The *Spectator* was at one time an eight-page paper and had a large circulation. Changes in the town and other business interests made its later years one of struggle and it finally ended its life before the psalmist's allotted time for man. It is remembered as having had excellent writers and editors on its staff and to have occupied a good position. As organ of a hopelessly small minority it could not survive.

*The Franklin Intelligencer* was established in 1834 by J. P. Cochran. Only an able editor could have been successful as he was in the conduct of a paper doomed to die, since its interests were bound up in a party so weak in numbers as to make patronage almost negligible. Mr. Cochran left Franklin for Erie and became part owner of the *Erie Gazette*. The *Franklin Gazette* experimented in the same field, but was forced to suspend after a short

life. Richard Irwin and John W. Howe had furnished capital, and John W. Snow was the editor and publisher. Mr. Snow was afterward successful in newspaper work in Illinois.

*The Advocate and Journal*, a paper devoted to temperance and agriculture, was published for several years by E. S. Durban. His struggles illustrate the difficulties and uncertainties of the journalism of the time and place. There were times, according to Mr. Durban's account, when the loan of twenty dollars helped the issue of the paper and uplifted his spirit with the thoughtfulness back of the loan to such an extent that he went on with his work. The story of some of his trials is well worth preserving: "My office force, typesetters, pressman and editorial staff, consisted of one small boy and myself. I worked eighteen hours a day, and did editorial duty at the case, setting up my editorials without writing. Finding the labor of working the old screw press very hard and slow, I got my father-in-law to make a wooden platen, full size, to take off half the work. It did reasonably well while warm weather lasted; but when winter came it was almost impossible to make a good impression, and many numbers were sent out that could not be read at all. This was disastrous. When April came again everybody who came in to pay ordered the paper stopped. At last a week came when nearly every one who came in was a subscriber who wanted to pay up and stop. More than one hundred stopped that week and there were less than one hundred names left on the list. Saturday night I locked the door and felt a relief in the fact that one day intervened before any more could get away. I told no one, not even my wife, of the calamity. I went to church the next day, but didn't hear the sermon. Knowing I was broken up, I debated with myself whether to try to go on or not. About the time the doxology was sung I had determined to 'die game.' At the rate they had been going, there were not enough to last one week; but till they were all gone I would be there. I went to the office as usual before six o'clock Monday morning, looking as cheerful as I could. About nine I sat down to the table, and soon heard a step coming toward the door. I listened, and sure enough the latch clicked, and some one came in. I did not look round, but said: 'Well sir, what's your name?' He told me. 'What post office?' He told me. I looked. 'Why sir, there is no such name on my list at that office!' 'I know it,' said the man, 'I have called to have it put on.' This was a new sensation. I looked at the man.

He seemed to be sane, so I put his name on and actually took his money. The weather was warmer and the paper had become readable. That week not a man discontinued and thirteen new names were added to the list by voluntary subscription. The calamity had culminated. In fact, it was not a calamity. People in those days never paid cash for their papers unless they wanted to 'stop.' I had charged every man two dollars, because it was not paid in advance. The result was that I had money enough to buy a first class iron hand press, which I did, changing defeat into victory. I also bought more second-hand type and enlarged the paper. From that time on the *Advocate and Journal* prospered."

The *Whig Banner* lived six months. Its publisher, R. Lyle White, was successful in other fields, and the *Banner*, modern in appearance, was a credit to him while it lived.

The *American Citizen* was established in February, 1855, with Charles Pitt Ramsdell, from Chautauqua county, N. Y., as its sponsor. He was able and enthusiastic. His after career in politics was brilliant and successful. The *Citizen* was purchased in 1859 by William Burgwin and Floyd C. Ramsdell, and later acquired by N. B. Smiley, when the name was changed to the *Venango Citizen*. Alexander McDowell and Mr. Smiley conducted the paper for a time, until J. W. H. Reisinger became individual owner. In 1870 E. W. Smiley, with H. S. and F. D. Smiley, became the owners and publishers. In 1884 the *Independent Press* was consolidated with the *Citizen*, and the paper was renamed the *Citizen-Press*.

The *Independent Press* had lived a little less than ten years when the consolidation took place. It was the only Prohibition party paper in the State. Its editors were successively J. R. Patterson, Miss Sue Beatty, and W. H. Whittaker. S. P. McCalmont established the journal, and it was undoubtedly due in large degree to this first Prohibition paper that sentiment was developed which later has become so effective. Mr. McCalmont's health becoming impaired, the paper was taken over by the Independent Press Association, Limited, W. R. Crawford was chairman, B. W. Bredin, secretary, and E. W. Echols, treasurer. The editors were J. J. McLaurin and H. May Irwin. The paper became Republican and in 1884 was merged into the *Citizen-Press*.

The *Franklin Herald*, a Greenback organ, lived a few months, although printed in Corry. *Pencil and Shears* and *The Daily Citizen* were also seekers after journalistic life, but succumbed after a short period of struggle.

The *Evening News* has a history that differs greatly from its predecessors. The first number was issued on the 18th of February, 1878. James B. Borland directed its course. James B. Muse and H. May Irwin were for a time associated with him in editorial work. The price of the new paper was one cent at first, and its small size did not give indication of its later development. But it was a sturdy infant. Its owners and editors profited by the experience of others who had experimented along the same line, and to their tasks they brought that true newspaper instinct without which no paper can succeed. Its size increased and the price also. The new publication commanded respect and gained interest. That the people generally believed in it was proved unmistakably, not alone by the list of subscribers, but by the liberal advertising. The management was changed at times, and as is usual many contributed to its columns. Mr. Borland, a lover of the woods and waters, about his home county in particular, gave the readers many sketches of his trips out into the world of nature. Two years ago Mr. Edgar T. Stevenson became editor of the *News*. His ability is appreciated by the readers, and the paper compares favorably with any metropolitan evening journal. The publishers are the Evening News Printing Company, president, Gen. Charles Miller, treasurer, Mina Neill. Its annual subscription price is \$4.50 in advance.

The *Venango Citizen Press*, with the same publishers and editors as the *News*, is published every Wednesday morning.

The *Morning Star* shone upon a heedless world for a few brief moons, and then waned to rise no more. Every evening belied its title when it failed to appear.

The *Penny Press* should have been popular, but connected with the Greenback party its days were few in the land.

The *Venango Herald* began a prosperous career in 1902. David McCalmont was its inspiration. He gave time and talent unreservedly to the publication. William P. F. Ferguson has been the editor during its life. He is an able advocate of the doctrines upheld by the paper and is also in demand by his party as a public speaker. Mr. Orson Graham contributes his special articles and has appreciative readers. In April, 1917, Mr. McCalmont retired as stockholder and a reorganization took place, James B. Borland being now managing editor and business manager. Mr. Ferguson is editor, Milton E. McWilliams, news editor; George A. Fahey,

assistant business manager and advertising manager. A department is devoted to Oil City news, Mr. Roy Brower and Miss Grace Fye taking charge of this section. The *Herald* has during the latter weeks of the war published a Sunday edition. Having one of its staff somewhere in France gave added interest to the news, James E. Murrin writing from many fields of war work.

#### EMLENTON

The *Allegheny Valley Echo* was the first paper to be published in the growing, wide-awake village of Emleton. Peter O. Conver lived for a while in Franklin and worked on the staff of the *Advocate and Journal*. After a short time spent in Kansas he returned to Venango county and established the *Echo* at Emleton. The paper must have been a unique organ. It missed issues when the editor felt like resting for a few days or a week. It is said to have been witty but not wise at times. When the Civil war made patriotism with courage essential Mr. Conver enlisted in the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry and served during the struggle. R. F. Blair purchased the *Echo* in 1861. In 1863 the materials were secured by J. W. Smullin and removed to Oil City.

The *Rising Sun*, by Walter L. Porter; the *Emleton Register*, edited by W. R. Johns; the *News*, by P. McDowell; the *Telegraph*, by Samuel Young, and the *Times*, by M. Hulings and D. D. Moriarty, were the local papers that followed, but journalism does not seem to have been a profitable vocation during the period that they were published.

On the 23d of March, 1877, Needle & Crowley issued the initial number of the *Register*. Within a few months they were succeeded by Wands & Hulings. The paper passed successively to Samson, Kittell & Dean and A. A. Hulings; in 1881, the publication having been suspended, T. W. West, formerly of the *Clarion Jacksonian*, purchased the materials and established the *Edenburg National*.

The *Emleton Critic*, a semi-weekly published by M. Gouchler & Brother, was the next local paper. It suspended in July, 1887.

The *Home News*, a two-column folio with a page nine inches long and six inches wide, made its first appearance May 14, 1885. E. H. Cubbison was editor and publisher. It was enlarged June 18th and July 27th, of the same year, and early gave evidence of being more than an amateur effort. With the close of the first volume the name was changed to the Em-

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

lenton *News*. For a time it was issued semi-weekly, but in May, 1889, became a weekly. The *News* has been a valuable exponent of local interests, in every way creditable to its constituency and to the enterprising publisher.

Three years ago, when C. F. Halderman became publisher of the Oil City *Blizzard*, the Emlenton *Herald*, of which he was proprietor, was sold to Mr. Cubbison and consolidated with the *News*. After the death of Mr. Cubbison, shortly after the business change, his estate sold the paper to Stewart & Wilbert, who carry it on most successfully as a home paper under the name of *The News*.

## SENECA

The *Seneca Kicker* deserves more than mere mention. It is a paper devoted to the best interests of the county. Its large correspondence from small communities in which no papers are published makes each issue like a neighbor's visit. It was established in 1899 by D. W. and G. B. Moore. The paper was well received and prosperous, but other interests calling them from its office gave Miss Annie Kinney an opportunity to carry out a dream, to become the owner and editor of a paper. One of the original features was the department devoted to the birthdays of Venango county babies. No baby in that section of the country considered itself dressed and ready for life until his or her coming had been put into rhyme by the amiable editor. It must have tried the soul of the most versatile to fit all names to proper rhymes, but it was done. Miss Kinney retired from the paper a year ago, and Mr. Gordon Moore, one of the founders, now conducts it most successfully, even to the making of rhymes. The paper is printed at Mr. Moore's print shop in Oil City and is a credit to his faith in good journalism.

## PITHOLE

The *Daily Record* of Pithole was the first daily paper that was financially successful in Venango county. On Monday, Sept. 25, 1865, Morton, Spare & Company issued the first paper. Thirty cents a week was not considered too great for a five-column folio. Lee M. Morton was the proud editor, and this paper filled a want, as its advertising proves. Possibly it did not continue to be a complete record, as it aimed to be at first, of the daily life at Pithole. Stories that come floating from that hill-top at this late day would not all be "fit to print" perhaps, but enough was given to make

the paper of interest to many outside that dream city. W. H. Longwell joined the forces of the paper in 1866. Charles H. Vickers and W. C. Plummer were also connected with the enterprise. Mr. Longwell became the ultimate purchaser and was connected with the paper until its discontinuance. When the city of Pithole declined and fell, the paper moved on to the new place of promise, Petroleum Center, repeated its own history and lived while this town prospered, and then gave up its ghost.

## RENO

The Reno *Times*, a paper established in the interest of that town, was published in 1865 and 1866, suspended in May of the latter year. Its editorial management evinced considerable ability.

## PLEASANTVILLE

The first newspaper at Pleasantville was the *Evening News*, a daily established in January, 1869, by Dodd & Colegrove. Its career was brief and uneventful. The next venture was the *Gas Light*, also a daily, of which O. H. Jackson was proprietor. It flickered for a short time and then failed entirely.

The *Commercial Record*, B. Corwin, proprietor, H. C. Mapes, editor and publisher, was a five-column quarto and appeared semi-monthly. The first number was issued Feb. 1, 1887. It was originally designed as a local advertising medium and served its purpose, being well supported by the business men of the town. It presented a creditable typographical appearance, and the local columns were well sustained.

## ROUSEVILLE

The Rouseville *Evening Bulletin*, a daily, was started by O. H. Jackson in October, 1870, and continued until Dec. 24, 1871. On Aug. 10, 1872, James Tyson issued the first number of the *Pennsylvanian*, a well edited weekly, which was continued for some time, but finally expired with the waning prestige of the town.

## COOPERSTOWN

The Cooperstown *News* was published at that borough in 1879 and 1880 by J. Lloyd Rohr, later of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## OIL CITY

The press of Oil City has a history that differs materially from that of many other

sections. The name of the city itself indicates that one great interest held the community, and demanded avenues through which it might communicate with the outside world. W. R. Johns saw that there was an opening for a *Weekly Register* and obtained a temporary habitation in the Third ward not far from the present Lake Shore depot. The journey of his printing outfit would rival in interest many tales of olden time. It was purchased in Monongahela City, was sent by boat to Pittsburgh, then to Kittanning by railroad, and from there over muddy roads, at times almost impassable, to its destination. Jan. 14, 1862, was the paper's birthday. It was from this first issue a paper of which no man need be ashamed. So far as known it was the first paper in the world to be devoted wholly to the oil country and its amazingly increasing interests. Mr. Johns retired from the management of the paper in 1866 and was succeeded by Henry A. Dow & Company.

The *Monitor*, published by J. W. Smullin, lived for a short time. The *Sand Pump and Bulletin* and the *Petroleum Monthly* existed somewhat longer. In 1870 Mr. Johns gave new life to the *Register*, and added to its interest by publishing a daily edition called the *Evening Register*. He published also the *Semi-Weekly Petrolian*. It was at this time also that the *Venango Republican* was promoted. It had political bearings and gained adherents. F. F. Davis and Andrew Cone purchased the plant of the *Register*, *Petrolian*, *Republican* and what was left of the dead and gone *Monitor*. The new paper, called the *Republican*, commanded respect from the first by its attractive appearance and able editorial force. A stock company succeeded to the ownership and Mr. Metcalf of Meadville was the editor. H. H. Herpst and George V. Forman were also interested in the publication. The name was changed to the *Times*. The plant was damaged by fire, and unable to attract a sufficient following the paper discontinued its daily issue. Mr. Herpst became the owner of the plant and for some time published a weekly edition.

Oil City was expanding. In 1869 an Oil Exchange was organized. In 1871 a city charter was obtained. People who came stayed. The town was on the map, and its citizens began to feel the thrilling stirrings of civic pride. They did not ask, as in former days, with an apologetic air, if visitors liked Oil City, and they began to register when abroad from the hub of oildom instead of some other older and more aspiring city. Under these

conditions a paper of a character to serve as an active exponent of the now world-famous town was felt to be a necessity. The 11th of September, 1871, therefore saw the entrance upon the scene of the *Oil City Derrick*. C. E. Bishop and W. H. Longwell were the publishers. H. H. Herpst was soon after added to their staff. All these men had journalistic experience, and knowing the needs of the region they supplied the news liberally. The Associated Press reports were given, and the editorial part of the paper was well maintained. Mr. J. J. McLaurin suggested and carried out the idea of having oil region correspondence. This was a feature of value and of great interest. Homer McClintock afterward, in 1886 and later, did much to carry on this part of the paper's enterprise. In 1872 Frank H. Taylor became editor of the *Derrick*. In 1877 R. W. Criswell succeeded Mr. Taylor. In 1882 the *Derrick Publishing Company* was formed, Mr. Longwell retiring. Edward Stuck was then editor and manager. In December of the same year he retired in favor of William H. Siviter, and on Aug. 11, 1885, P. C. Boyle became owner, editor and publisher of a paper which is known as the organ of oil the world over. Its growth is the best monument that could be erected to the memory of its owner. It has become one of the most able and influential papers of the State and Venango county is proud of this enterprise. Mr. Boyle had first hand knowledge of the conditions in the oil country. He had the seeing eye and the feeling heart, a combination not always obtaining. His quick sympathy is seen in his literary style, trenchant and brilliant. Charles H. Garrison of Pittsburgh was for a time connected with the paper. His friendship for Mr. Boyle was so earnest that at his early death he left his books to Mr. Boyle, who in turn gave many of them to the public library that the Belles Lettres Club was maintaining. Among the statisticians who have served the *Derrick* we find the names of R. W. Criswell, William Steiger, Henry Gauss, A. S. Snell, Archibald Crumm and Frank H. Taylor. Mr. P. C. Boyle is president of the *Derrick Publishing Company*, with J. N. Perrine, secretary and treasurer; E. R. Boyle, business manager; Joseph W. Orr, managing editor. F. H. Taylor, of Oil City, is statistician, and the paper has special representatives for Pennsylvania and West Virginia, at Pittsburgh; for Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, at Toledo, Ohio; Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas, at Tulsa and Ardmore, Okla., Fort Worth and Houston, Texas, and

Shreveport, La.; Wyoming, at Casper, Wyo.; California, at Los Angeles; Mexico, at Tampico; Canada, at Chatham, Ontario; New York, in New York City; and at Washington, D. C.

The *Derrick* is at home in a fine modern building with all the equipment an up-to-date paper can use. It is found the world over. Its oil reports are authoritative. It is a journal of high character, printing nothing in its columns that cannot be read in any home. It devotes its great influence to the upbuilding of the community and has always from the date of Mr. Boyle's purchase been a promoter of patriotism, not of the bubbling sort that exhausts itself in emotion, but the kind that becomes forcible in action. It is a daily advertisement of the virtues of a growing city and of its progressive inhabitants. The guiding genius of P. C. Boyle has made the *Derrick* a great newspaper.

The *Oil City Blizzard* was established in 1882 by F. W. Bowen, H. G. McKnight and B. F. Gates. These young men had all gained experience on the *Derrick* and they believed the time had come to give Oil City an evening paper. Their capital was small, but their hopes were great. Mr. Bowen was editor in chief, Mr. McKnight had charge of the mechanical part, and Mr. Gates of the job department. The paper was welcomed and soon enlarged its capacity. Mr. Gates removed from the city after four years of successful work and the firm continued as Bowen & McKnight until the death of Mr. Bowen in 1916, Mr. McKnight retaining direction of the paper for a year longer, until the plant was sold to the present publishers. The paper occupied a field of its own to some extent. It was the only evening paper that had lived, although other ventures had been made, they had failed. Frank Bowen wielded a sharp, pointed pen. He was at his best in controversy. Though one might differ greatly with him and deplore the stinging lines, still laughter was not far away. Editorial writers, or some who aspired to do that work, were encouraged to try their skill in the *Blizzard* columns. Robert Simpson went from that paper to the Pittsburgh *Gazette-Times*; A. R.

Crumm to the Pittsburgh *Post*; E. A. Bradshaw to the Jamestown *Journal*; E. C. Bell to Titusville; F. F. Murray, now editor of the journal "Along the Way," and B. W. Babcock, who went to the New York *Times*, all tried their wings in the little Oil City office. The *Blizzard* is now an eight-page paper with large circulation. It is carried on by C. F. Halderman of the Emlenton *Herald*, and S. M. Rosenthal of *The Punxsutawney Spirit*. It is published by the *Blizzard Publishing Company*, of which H. A. Downs is president; C. F. Halderman, treasurer; Samuel M. Rosenthal, secretary. The growth and stability of the paper is assured, and Oil City enjoys an evening paper that is welcome in every home.

One who glances through the files of the papers of long ago, and reads with some thought the records of the struggles and the failures and successes of the men who have given body to the Fourth Estate, finds that all have had in a degree similar experience. The editor of *The Democratic Arch* begs his fellow editors to "render unto scissors the things that are scissors," his words gaining force from the fact that the man who took some of his editorial matter without credit was a ministerial editor who would appreciate the almost Scriptural appeal. The Franklin Library is custodian of a file of this ancient paper and students of human nature as well as of journalism find much to interest them in pages yellowed and made brittle by time. Steady progress toward the fine accomplishment of the present is so plain that a wayfaring man, even a fool, may see it. To-day the best is none too good for the humblest resident of this unique region. To say that the press has led rather than followed any demand for better things journalistically is not undeserved praise. But the splendid fact remains perfectly plain that the brains of to-day are not one whit brighter or finer, and have no more convolutions, than those of the past. Reactions may be quicker from cultivation, but the thinking mind and the urge toward perfection existed in 1828 just as they do in 1918.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### SCHOOLS

FRANKLIN—SCHOOLS OF OIL CITY—BIRD DAY—EMLENTON SCHOOLS—IRWIN TOWNSHIP—OTHER TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS—COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS—SCHOOL STATISTICS

#### FRANKLIN

In the year 1801 there were enough children in Franklin to require some organized instruction. One hundred and seventeen years ago a small house built of unhewn logs was erected and the goddess of wisdom invited to come down and take her stand upon the clapboard floor and dole out to those unhappy infants the rudiments of education, the "three R's." They may not have been so very unhappy, for between the great logs were spaces through which the light came, and sounds that drifted in from the trees, which suggested sports to be enjoyed in the far away hours of release. Simple as the environment was, it sufficed, and it is immortally true that no teacher ever taught "R's" alone. What he was spoke to the swift, sure judgment of the children, made for a wider culture than books alone, elaborate, embellished or not, can give.

John Mason was the first teacher of the Franklin children. In 1809 Alexander McCalmont took charge of the school. Two dollars was considered a fair price for three months of training, the patrons of the school furnishing firewood and providing the room. Old records show that thirty-five pupils were guaranteed before Mr. McCalmont took charge of the institution, George Power, John McDonald and Alexander McDowell each subscribing for three; Abraham Selders, Philip Houser, William Connely, James Martin and Catharine Armstrong, each two; William Moore, Dennis Pursel, Nathaniel Hays, Samuel Monjar, William Gibson, Marcus Hulings, Robert Armstrong, Hugh Picknoll, John Atkinson, Robert Austin, Jacob Weaver, Charles Ridgway, John Broadfoot, Samuel Plumer, Robert Dewoody and John Ridgway, one each.

The State made annual appropriations for educational purposes, and each county had its own academy. When the town of Franklin was laid out lots were set apart for future use

as school sites. The idea of a general plan of school work was developing, and Franklin caught the spirit early. In 1813 the Venango Academy was incorporated. Alexander McCalmont, George Connely, William Moore, Alexander McDowell, John McDonald and George Power were the first trustees. Each year two members of this board of trustees were elected by the county, and their term was three years. One thousand dollars was given by the State to be invested in safe and growing securities. One thousand was also given to assist in building or buying and equipping a house adapted to school purposes. Five hundred dollars must first be provided by the citizens themselves, before the State fund was available. Among the provisions for helpfulness it was decreed that four poor children were to receive tuition without cost. If it were possible to look backward it would be interesting to see what befell the first four of this select class. It would have been equally difficult for those kindly people to have looked forward to the day when tuition, books and even food are provided, and the young citizens, from the poorest or the richest homes, are put, so far as human nature and good will can accomplish it, on an equality that helps make the world safe for democracy. In 1815 the building was erected. It was built of wood, and contained a small entrance hall and two good-sized rooms. For eight years John Kelly taught his eager pupils. John Sutton and John Gamble came after him, and they in turn were succeeded by several clergymen of good education and fine individuality. Robert Ayres was an Episcopal minister, while Nathaniel R. Snowdon and Thomas F. Magill were Presbyterians.

The schools increased with the growth of the town, and in 1838 the legislature permitted the trustees to sell 510 acres of land in addition to some lots in their possession, in order to furnish adequate room. The news-

papers urged the trustees to go forward in this work and gave stimulus to the movement, and in 1853 the two thousand dollars in the hands of the trustees were made to do good service in the erection of a brick building on Buffalo street. New life was given to the school when the two large rooms downstairs and one above were opened for use. Educationally a new day arrived. The old academies gave way in large degree to the constantly improving public school system. In Franklin, however, the Academy long continued to hold a large place, and it was September, 1871, when the building was sold to the Evangelical Church.

Under the public school system buildings were erected in various parts of the town. There were three of these in 1848—a brick building on Buffalo street between Thirteenth and Fourteenth, now occupied as a residence; a small frame house on Buffalo street near Ninth, and a similar structure on West Park street, between Elk and Otter, built about 1840 upon ground owned by the Presbyterian Church. The latter is still referred to as "the old white schoolhouse." There was no regularly arranged course of study in those days nor for many years afterward, each teacher doing what seemed right in his own eyes, and when pupils became sufficiently advanced they could enter the Academy. The town was neither populous nor wealthy, and the improvement in the public schools was scarcely perceptible, public interest and energy being centered upon the Academy.

That the beginning of the oil development marked a new era in local educational as well as material progress was substantially evidenced in 1867 by the erection of the Union school building on the corner of Eleventh and Buffalo streets, at a cost of \$33,700. On Jan. 6, 1868, this building was opened with an attendance of seven hundred pupils—such an outpouring of the rising generation to one point as had never before been witnessed in Franklin. In 1860 there were seven schools; from 1861 to 1865, eight, of which one was for colored pupils; in 1867, twelve; in 1871, thirteen; in 1872 and 1873, fourteen; in 1874, fifteen. With an increasing population enlargement of accommodations had become a necessity, and on May 28, 1876, contracts for the erection of two new buildings were awarded, that for the First Ward at the corner of Ninth and Elk streets, and for the Second at the corner of Fourteenth and Buffalo streets. The original cost of the former was \$13,490; it was enlarged in 1889 at an added expenditure of

\$3,036. The latter cost \$18,400 and was enlarged in 1884 at a cost of \$3,275. The cost of the Third ward building was \$12,400.

When Franklin was incorporated as a city in 1868 there were eleven teachers and 1,030 pupils. The annual school term was five months. In 1885 a superintendent of city schools was elected, and the city has not since been officially under the county administration. Since that time Franklin has had the following superintendents of schools: N. P. Kinsley, C. E. Lord, N. P. Kinsley, C. E. Carter. The city had in 1885 twenty-six teachers and 1,388 pupils, and the annual school term was nine months, which indicates much progress from the incorporation of the city. At present Franklin has fifty-six teachers, a school term of nine months, and 1,609 pupils; a high school building costing \$140,530; six other school buildings; well-graded courses of study for both the common and the high schools, with special courses and electives found in any modern high school. By making proper selection from these courses young people can fit themselves to take up any line of business intelligently and successfully, or to enter any of the higher educational institutions of the country. They may pursue any line of professional studies. In a word, Franklin's high school stands among the best in the country, both in material equipment and in the ability of its instructors. Under its present superintendent, C. E. Carter, it will undoubtedly absorb all the good things in education that are being developed anywhere. Clyde W. Cranmer is principal, with a staff of twelve teachers.

Franklin has three special teachers: Austa Reisinger, instructor in drawing; Mrs. Maud G. Huntsman, domestic science; James G. Morgan, manual training.

The Union school, Adda McBride, principal, has eleven teachers; First ward school, Florence Campbell, principal, five teachers; Second ward school, Helen S. Birge, principal, five teachers; Third ward school, Ruth Gealy, principal, six teachers; Fourth Street school, Mary Borland, principal, two teachers; Oak Hill school, Edwinnia R. Yarletts, principal, one teacher.

One of the institutions of which Franklin might well boast is the night school organized and financed by Gen. Charles Miller. Long before such opportunities were famous the General established this school. It was in 1886 that it opened its doors to the ambitious and earnest students whose days were too full of work of other sorts to attend day schools. All

men of Franklin were welcome. A few years later women also were admitted. "Without money and without price" might have been the motto, so far as the students were concerned, for nothing was asked except attendance and honest effort. For thirty-two years this splendid plan has been worked out. Its benefits can never be estimated, so great are they. General Miller paid all expenses through these years, until in January, 1919, he turned the school over to the Y. M. C. A., with furniture, books, etc., to be removed to the building of the Association, which gladly took advantage of his offer. During all this time he retained the same superintendent, Mr. D. J. Hart. It is with lively regret that this distinctive feature of Franklin loses a part of its individuality, although its benefits will still be flowing out into the community, under the care of the Y. M. C. A.

#### SCHOOLS OF OIL CITY

(By *Emma W. Babcock*)

The old story credited to the oil regions, of the man who wished to buy capacity for his children, can never be located in this wide-awake town. Early it was determined that the children were all right as to capacity, and only needed training to take their places in the great world into which so many of them have gone and added renown to the city which educated them. Early in 1862 the borough board secured the township schoolhouse on Haliday run. John Kuhns, L. M. Gordon and A. M. Gardner, who composed the board, elected J. J. Kincaid and later his wife also to teach the spelling, and other essentials of rudimentary education. It is in fact interesting to see how deep a hold the spelling book had upon all early trustees. Spelling must have been felt to be a specially difficult subject, as misspelled words were seen in public places inviting visitors to the towns to laugh when for instance they saw "Stove for sail" in the window of a hardware store, and other equally suggestive announcements.

In 1863 a new schoolhouse was built on the site of the present Oil Well Supply offices. This was destroyed by fire in 1866. It was necessary to have more room, and the Pearl Avenue school and one in the Third ward were built. Mr. Kincaid was principal on the west side and David Hays on the east. There were a great many children in Oil City, few elderly people, and no old ones at all. New buildings were erected as soon as possible. When the Venango City school district was

formed, D. Ross was made principal of a school on Second street. He was succeeded in turn by David McMullin, H. D. Hancock, W. J. McClure, J. Douglass, J. P. Ellingwood and Miss Eliza Kent.

In 1875 a high school was organized. Rented rooms were used until a brick and stone building on Central avenue was completed. Mr. Marcus Hulings presented the clock which was placed in the tower. The eyes of many thousands of children have been turned toward it with various emotions. It has hastened the laggard, and performed its duty well through all the years. J. J. Kincaid, J. F. Weller, Professor Patterson and J. H. Collier were the successive principals of the east side school.

Palace Hill needed a school room, and a small building was put up about 1881.

In 1881 the schools on both sides of the river were consolidated. C. F. Carroll was elected superintendent, and the schools began to take form. After serving two of his three years' term Mr. Carroll returned to New England. C. A. Babcock was elected for the remaining year, and for twenty-five years served Oil City as superintendent. It was a position of vast responsibility. The board at that time was composed of many members, chosen two by two from each ward by vote of the wards. To the everlasting credit of Oil City it must be said that her schools have always been one of her distinct sources of pride. The course was developed as time and school boards would permit, until pupils could enter without further examination the best institutions in the country, provided that they took the course that was mapped out for them. A growing desire for further education and for a broad foundation was developed. Preparing the high school pupils for college requirements did not interfere with the elementary schools, as the gold medal presented to them for their exhibit at the World's Fair at St. Louis gave proof. Messrs. D. Sanford, J. M. Hall, R. W. Hughes, G. W. Gurnee and F. J. Turnbull have been the successive principals of the high school, Mr. Turnbull still acting in that capacity.

It would be manifestly unfair to the Oil City schools if mention were not made of the fact that C. A. Babcock, so long superintendent, originated the idea of enlisting the interest of children in the preservation of birds. By means of a "Bird Day" in the schools, on which for a short period the attention of the students could be called to the necessities of the situation, it was believed a great work might eventually be done. Mr. Babcock asked

J. Sterling Morton, a member of President Cleveland's cabinet, an old family friend, then at the head of the Agricultural bureau in Washington, to indorse the idea. This he did most enthusiastically. The department of Biology published a bulletin indorsing the idea of Mr. Babcock, and sent copies by the hundreds to the department of science of the National Educational Association. The clipping bureaus of the country prove that this new idea was a welcome one. It seemed to have wings like a bird. It went all over the land, and reports came from England and France and Italy of approval of this definite way of teaching the absolute need of bird preservation. In a few months several States passed laws making the day obligatory in the schools, and it is to-day the law in more than two-thirds of the States of the Union. Many States publish illustrated books for the use of the teachers. Notable among this large number is that of the State of Kentucky, which placed the beautifully colored bird book in the hands of each teacher in the State and gave the following sketch to its teachers and children:

#### BIRD DAY

*By Charles A. Babcock, Originator of Bird Day*

(Written expressly for this Bulletin)

The observance of Bird Day in the schools, and especially the preparation for it, will do a great deal to improve the spirit of school life. It will develop enthusiasm and interest which will do much to carry along all the burdens that must be laid upon young shoulders. Birds are almost always regarded by children, and by those whose hearts are young, with peculiar interest. For a child to know a bird is to love him. The birds are so quaint, so beautiful, and their lives exhibit so many traits of intelligence and of fine feeling, that when one begins to observe them it is easy to continue, and bird study will become a habit and add much to the joy of life. Not to know the birds, their ways, their part in the great surge of life which sweeps over the earth, is to miss no small part of our birth-right to intelligence.

What relation to us has that vast army of little musicians which comes upon the crest of the wave of green which rolls every spring from the tropics toward the poles? The birds come with the springing grass, the swelling buds, and the opening flower, variegating the plant colors with flitting forms of grace and dashing bits of flame. They are the true graces, which, the ancients believed, danced over the fields and forests in the spring. The birds certainly help to make the seasons fair. As Thoreau said of the song sparrow, "He helps to crack the ice in the pond." But are beauty and song the only reasons of the bird's being, sufficient as these appear?

A little observation of the bird's life will show that he follows the line of growing vegetation to eat the insects and their eggs that are exposed in the grasses and buds. This insect life was in the buds when they began their winter's sleep and wakes with them in

the spring to vigorous life at their expense, for it feeds upon the buds and, if unchecked, would destroy them. Here we get a glimpse of the mighty mission of the birds. They are nature's check against the wonderful power of insects to increase, a power so great that if let alone insects in a few seasons would overwhelm and utterly destroy vegetation. This disaster would surely come if it were not for the birds. They are the force nature has provided to cope with the insects. Without them man with all his inventiveness would be powerless against an enemy that has such amazing power to multiply. It has been ascertained that most migrating birds, especially songbirds, destroy thousands of insects' larva and ova daily. The young of these birds are said by the most careful observers to consume their own weight of this insect food every twenty-four hours. This seems to be an enormous amount for a birdling to eat, but it is quite certain from observations of those who have watched the parent birds feeding their young that it is true.

There are different classes of birds to hunt and destroy insect life in the various regions of the atmosphere. There is a large number of long-legged wading birds which spend their lives in the swamps, marshes and along the edges of rivers and lakes, destroying insects and small reptiles that are born in such places. Closely related to them are the swimming birds with boat-shaped bodies, webbed feet and bills well fitted for straining out little living creatures from the water. On the land, there are many others which spend their time searching the low grasses and shrubs for insect life. For the insects that infest the taller trees there are other classes of feathered hunters, which peer into every crevice in the bark and inspect every bud or flower or leaf with eyes like microscopes in their power to see small things. One class of these hunters in trees locates the nests of grubs or caterpillars by drumming upon the bark, and then drills into the wood and destroys the nest and its contents.

A number of years ago the Gypsy moth was accidentally introduced into Massachusetts. A professor of entomology had received from Europe some leaves covered with the eggs of this destructive insect, which he wished to study. A puff of air whirled one of the leaves out of the window. Ever since then that professor, and the majority of tree owners in the State, have had more opportunity to study the Gypsy moth than they cared for. They have had to fight for the life of their trees. The State has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the battle is not won. The moth has traveled westward across the State to the New York State line, and has spread into several of the New England States. The best ally these people could have had against the moth is the birds that hunt in the trees; but too many of these were probably ornamenting hats. Another pest has appeared. It is commonly called the brown-tailed moth, and is even more destructive of forests than the Gypsy. It is said that the hairs forming its tail are easily detached and float in the air. Coming in contact with the human skin they produce an intense irritation. Again are the birds that live upon the insect life needed to check this pest.

There are many birds that take their food only on the wing, ridding the air of the swiftly flying insects. These are the swifts, the swallows, the martins, the night hawks and many others. Sometimes they skim the surface of the water or the land, and again they travel to great heights.

Then there are the fly catchers that upon some fa-

vorables perch await the passing insect. These must have eyes of telescopic power. Many of them, like the chief of their tribe, the king-bird, will discover their prey hundreds of feet distant, launch themselves upon it with arrowy swiftness, take it with a sharp click of the bill and return to their perch ready for another flight. What wonderful swiftness they have, and what complete control of their movements. They turn, jump aside, and even stop almost instantly while in most rapid motion.

It seems evident that the birds whose ways of life we have just hinted at are a force quite unique in nature. Nothing else can equal them. No man will ever invent things to take the place of the wing, the eye, the bill, the digestion of the bird. Probably every one of them has helped to put dollars worth of fruit, grain and vegetables upon our tables, and assists equally to provide us with cotton, linen, and all the products of the trees. It is no less than criminal to destroy wantonly one of them. It has been said that there are so many birds, and they have such power to increase their numbers, that a few more or less does not matter. But a single law of animal economy shows that this is a sad mistake. It was long ago demonstrated by Darwin and others that all animals in a state of nature must, generations ago, have reached a balanced condition. Each class of animals tends to increase indefinitely, but so do the enemies of that class which tend to destroy it. For ages the natural enemies of birds have increased in equal pace with the birds themselves. And ages ago birds must have reached the limit of their increase, that is, as many must have died yearly as were born in that year. Now if a new powerful enemy like man be added, the old enemies will still be able to destroy as many as before, and in a few years the birds will become extinct.

This state has already been approached in the case of a number of species, notably, within the memory of most, the passenger pigeon and the flamingo. We need not only to stop destroying the birds but to use all means in our power to protect them from their other enemies. We must study them to find out how we can help them most. What if the world should become birdless? Man could bring about that condition in a few more generations. If there were no birds, plant life and, therefore, animal life, including the life of man, would be impossible upon the earth. This is the conclusion of every scientific man who has studied the subject.

Now how shall we go about preparing the children for a Bird Day exercise? We must go to the birds themselves, observe them and get the children to observe them, go with the children as much as possible. Start with some well known bird, as the robin, or song sparrow, and prepare a list of questions to be answered from observations. Ask about the size of the bird, length from tip of beak to end of tail, color of back and feet, number of toes and which way they point, general color of back, color of under parts, markings of back, difference in appearance of the male and female, gait on ground, walk, hop or run, wings long and pointed or short and rounded. Flight, straight and steady or bounding. What does it eat? Nests, of what built, where placed? Incidents showing character. Song; describe it; imitate it.

Answers should be compared. There will be many mistakes to correct at first, but the work will rapidly improve. After a few birds have been studied in this way under the direction of a teacher, or of some one who is a little in advance of the others,

each one can take up the subject for himself following the general order of description indicated by the questions given. A bird manual would soon be needed by every little group. Also an opera glass.

The exercises of Bird Day should consist of essays about birds, based upon results of observations. Write about individual birds as if they were persons of our acquaintance. Essays giving any facts about particular birds, showing their ways of life, habits, dispositions, their songs as learned by observation, have peculiar interest and value. Recitations from literature, both prose and poetry, are very appropriate. There is a rich fund for this kind of work to draw upon. The birds live and sing in many immortal poems; while some of the best recent writers have pictured them in prose in almost living colors.

The teacher as well as the children will have begun a life-long study that increases in interest and beauty. The little child and the old man and woman may heap up these riches, and nothing but death itself can rob them of it; and perhaps that can not.

John Bourroughs wrote an article especially for the first Bird Day ever celebrated, in May, 1894, and sent it to Mr. Babcock as a message of joy. Governors, teachers, literary men and scientists applauded it. Mr. Penrose, in a speech before the Sportsman's organization in this State, says that he points with pride to the fact that his State has the credit for this gift of a new idea. The effect was magical upon the children as well as upon the birds. Boys who once looked at birds with the eyes of sharpshooters learned to love them and to protect them. The school board was enthusiastic and enlightened, and knew it for a great economic movement for the betterment of the world. The day was not observed in Oil City after Mr. Babcock retired. But it is now restored to its honored place, as the following State law makes it obligatory:

#### ARBOR DAY AND BIRD DAY

The following is a copy of a law passed by our last legislature.

That from and after the passage of this act, those several days of each year that may be set apart by the Governor as Arbor Day shall also be known as "Bird Day" in Pennsylvania, and it shall be the duty of every teacher in the public schools of this Commonwealth, under penalty of reprimand or dismissal, as the case may require, to devote, together with their pupils, at least two hours of such school-day to the study of wild birds, and especially to consider the value of the life-work of such birds to the people, and the best methods through which the conservation and increase of useful birds may be secured; and it shall be the duty of all school superintendents within this Commonwealth, either county, city, or otherwise, to see to it that the requirements of this act are complied with.

During Mr. Babcock's superintendency four brick buildings of four rooms each were

constructed, and one two-room brick building; one two-room wooden building was replaced by a modern four-room brick building; one four-room brick building was enlarged to an eight-room building; thus adding twenty-four graded schools. In 1898 a new high school was built, adapted to accommodate three hundred and fifty pupils. This contained laboratories, chemical and physical, and a fine assembly room whose walls were decorated by each departing class with pictures of genuine art value. The school was generously supplied with all that a modern high school of the first class demands, facilities for manual training, and the study of domestic science, as well as a commercial course, including stenography, typewriting, bookkeeping and penmanship.

In 1908 J. J. Palmer, of Greenville, was elected superintendent. The rapidly growing city, enlarged by the addition of two flourishing suburbs, demanded more room for the pupils. The Fourth ward building was remodeled and enlarged at an expense of \$45,000. A Junior high school was built, which is modern in all its appliances.

The development of educational facilities has, in fact, kept pace with that of the city, which now has the following schools:

North Side High School, F. J. Turnbull, principal, R. C. Thompson, assistant principal, twelve teachers; Junior High School, Roy A. Baum, principal, eighteen teachers; Pearl Avenue school, Grace James, principal, seven teachers; Seneca Street school, Josephine W. Plante, principal, five teachers; Main Street school, Hattie Gould, principal, four teachers; Spruce Street school, Katherine Judge, principal, one teacher; Selden Avenue school, Ida Irwin, principal, one teacher; Innis Street school, Alice Tisdale, principal, nine teachers; Central Avenue school, Adele Harper, principal, nine teachers; Grant Street school, Jennie Cowen, principal, eight teachers; Hoffman Avenue school, Isabel Kuhns, principal, three teachers; Gay Street school, Louise LeGoullon, principal, three teachers; Glenview Avenue school, Caroline Mimm, principal, nine teachers. There are two supply teachers, one each for the grammar and primary grades.

Eight teachers of special subjects are engaged: Joseph A. Leeder, supervisor of music; George F. McAlevy and Parker Peters, manual training; William H. Fountain, physical training; B. C. Bacon, penmanship and bookkeeping; Hazel Orcutt, domestic science; Olive M. Lowen, domestic art and science; Susan Sproull, domestic arts.

During 1917 the average attendance at the

Oil City schools was 871 male and 1,918 female pupils out of a total registration of 2,914. The attendance at present averages 96 per cent.

The private school of Rev. Dr. Earp deserves mention. It was conducted with success for several years and gave satisfaction to its patrons. Individual attention was given to those desiring special courses, and the school filled a large place in the esteem of the people, its scholarly head being highly regarded as an instructor and man of culture.

#### PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

The parochial schools of the county in Oil City and Franklin have kept pace with the growth and importance of these cities.

The Oil City schools established by Father Coady were enlarged and successfully carried on by the Rev. Thomas Carroll. He was an educator in the true sense of the word, and the high mark set by him has never been lowered. The fine buildings and efficient management of the present reflect credit upon all connected with the institutions. Father Sheridan takes great interest in all the schools. St. Joseph's is under the management of the Benedictine Sisters; St. Joseph's Academy, under the direction of the Rev. Alexis A. Fischer; and the Assumption (Polish), under the direction of the Felician Sisters.

In Franklin the same interest has prevailed in good parochial schools. The small schools of the past have developed into the fine institution of the present Sacred Heart School, under the auspices of the Sisters of Mercy.

#### EMLTON SCHOOLS

The first teacher of Emlton was Mrs. La villa Lowrie, who taught seven or eight of her neighbors' children in a room of her house. The second teacher was Miss Sarah Perry, and the third was Miss Lena Milford. She taught in a small house on the bank of the river, and is remembered as an excellent instructor. Opinions differ as to the time when the first schoolhouse was built, whether it was in 1845 or in 1849. It occupied the same site as the present public school and was a small frame building. The ground was given by Joseph B. Fox. It was used as a town hall, and as a place of worship by nearly all the different denominations. The second school building was also a frame structure. A substantial brick building was erected in 1873.

Rev. J. B. Fox erected a large brick build-

ing above Shippenville street in which he conducted for some years an academy called Tabbleau Seminary. With the improvement in the public schools the seminary was discontinued. The course of the schools in Emlenton has been upward, and to-day her high school is ranked by the State superintendent as first class. It has a four years' course, nine months each year, with three teachers. The principal is J. B. Edwards. The number of pupils enrolled in 1917 in this borough, together with the statistics of this and all the other boroughs and townships, will be found at the end of this article in a table from the State report.

#### IRWIN TOWNSHIP

The first schoolhouse in Irwin township was a log house. Before its erection the schools were held at the homes of the farmers in different parts of the township. It was called the McMurdy school, and the first teachers there were Chauncey Hamilton, Charles Folsom and Jacob Heims. Another of the early school buildings was the Beach schoolhouse, where George Westlake was one of the first teachers. The Barnes schoolhouse was erected near Gilmore's mills, one of the first teachers being Robert Jones. A schoolhouse was built on the farm of Thomas Martin at an early date, which numbered among its teachers William Blakely and Miss Kennedy. A log schoolhouse was put up on the land of Thomas Bullion very early. John Elder, Reuben York, and John Hovis were three of the early teachers there. At the Guiler schoolhouse, built upon land owned by John Guiler, John Bingham was the first teacher, and Chauncey Hamilton also taught there. Before the passage of the school law of 1834 these schools were all supported by the subscriptions of the patrons. After the new law went into effect, all became public schools excepting two. The present schools are eleven in number. One of them is distinguished by having a term of eleven months.

#### OTHER TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The first schoolhouses in Allegheny township were situated near Concord Church and Asbury Chapel. One of the first teachers at the Concord schoolhouse was a Scotchman who boarded himself in the schoolhouse and taught without books. He seems to have been ahead of his time. He is remembered as a fine teacher. Mr. G. B. Brown taught at the Chapel school at an early date. The Brodhead school was built on land given by C. Brodhead. Nancy J. McBride, Elvira Hall, and Cornelia Mix

taught among the first. The Neillsburg Academy was sustained for a number of years by the citizens of this township. After the departure of the successful and unsuccessful among the oil operators the schools naturally declined in numbers and importance. There are now two schools with thirty-five pupils in the township.

In Sugar Creek township the first schoolhouse was produced by the exertions of the neighborhood, upon the farm of Thomas Brown, in the Sugar Creek valley. It was a log building, and William Mead, Samuel Hood and Margaret Robinson were the first teachers. A small school was taught for several terms in a vacant house near French Creek, above the mouth of Patchel's run. Josiah Longwell was the teacher. This was the first school in that locality. A deserted log house furnished school room in which William Mead taught for a number of terms; this house was located on the Satterfield farm. The first schoolhouse in the vicinity of Galloway stood a short distance from the Dempseytown road, about a mile from Franklin. From such an unpromising beginning Sugar Creek township has developed the school idea until now she has more schools than any other township in the county. Two of her schools have terms of thirteen months.

The report of the State superintendent of public instruction for the year 1877 gives the following account of early educational efforts in Scrubgrass township:

"In Scrubgrass township a school was taught in 1804 in a log house near Witherup's by John McClaran. The only pupils yet living are Samuel Phipps, born in 1795, and his sister, Polly Williams. A house was built on the Barkley farm in 1807. A little later a very large log house was erected near the present residence of James Anderson, and in this James White taught a very large school. On a Saturday afternoon the larger boys visited a distillery near by, chopped wood for whiskey, and returned to the schoolhouse about 'spelling time.' They besieged the house with snowballs and the teacher could not control them. On the next Monday morning, however, each returned to his allegiance and received a severe flogging. This house was in use until 1817. In 1820 P. G. Hollister taught in a new building near the Witherup house. The first books used were Dillworth's speller and the New Testament. The first arithmetic introduced was the Young Man's Companion, in which

all the problems were solved as well as stated. It was an arithmetic and key combined, similar to many of the arithmetics of the present day. Later Webster's spelling book and the Western Calculator were introduced. In 1828 hewn log houses were built. Among the teachers who taught in them were Rev. William Dickson and William Grandon. The wages, half in grain and half in money, were from ten dollars to fifteen dollars per month. On a day fixed upon the patrons took their subscriptions of grain to the teacher. After the enactment of the law of 1834 the people took more interest in their schools. Better houses were built. Wages from ten to twenty dollars per month were paid. In 1859 frame houses were built, some of which are still in use. The buildings erected in 1873-74 are excellent."

Scrubgrass Academy was opened in April, 1875, and a building erected at Scrubgrass Church in the following year. J. C. Kettler, later president of Grove City College, was first principal. Among his successors were Rev. J. A. Ewing, S. Anderson and S. W. Gilky. The academy was in successful operation several years.

Now the township has six schools, having terms of seven months.

In all probability the first school in French Creek township was taught as early as the year 1801-02, by James Lowrie, who occupied for the purpose a small log building which stood on Mill creek, a short distance above Utica. The second building for school purposes was erected about the year 1803, about three quarters of a mile above Utica, on French creek, and within its walls James Gilliland, father of Joseph and A. C. Gilliland, wielded the birch in the winter of 1803-04. James Taylor taught a term in a little log house near "Hanna's Gap" as early as 1810, and several years later Samuel Hood taught in the same locality, though not in the same building. A. P. Whitaker, long editor of the *Venango Spectator*, was one of the pedagogues in the same neighborhood in later years. A school was taught in an abandoned dwelling on the Gilliland farm two miles northeast of Waterloo in an early day by a Miss Nash, who was remembered as a very good teacher in her time. A round-log house was erected in the same neighborhood a little later, and for two years the children living within a radius of two miles of the same were instructed in the mysteries of the alphabet, spelling book, writing, and arithmetic to the "rule of three," by Misses Alice Cummings and Sarah Whann.

In an early day James Paden taught a term of school in an abandoned dwelling which stood on the Runninger farm, and about the same time Lacy Cochran taught for several months in a vacant dwelling on the Simcox place. A log schoolhouse was erected in the same neighborhood some time afterward, and the first teacher there was Susan Oliver. There was also an early school building on the Major McClelland place, about three miles from Polk, but of its teachers nothing definite is known. As early as 1837-38 Miss Anna Moore taught a term in the house of John Martin, on the Heydrick farm, and a year or two later Miss Delia Hammond was employed to teach in the same place. Subsequently a log building was erected in the neighborhood on land now owned by John Lesher. Robert Stout, William Gordon and James M. Daily were among the early pedagogues in this building.

The first school patronized by the residents of Utica was taught in a small log building which stood near the present site of the United Presbyterian Church. It was erected as early as 1831 and was first used by James Scott, who is remembered as a scholarly man and an excellent teacher for that time. Among the various teachers who followed Mr. Scott were Daniel Stephens, William Gordon, William Wright, Edward Hughes, Esther Clough, William Hutchinson, W. W. Whiteley and Allen McCracken. The old log building was destroyed by fire, and immediately afterward a small frame building was put up near the mouth of Mill Creek. This building becoming too small for the school population of the village, a larger one was erected about 1854, as a private enterprise by what was known as Utica Academy and Lecture Room Company, formed to erect a building in which the common school could be taught and also the higher branches of learning. It was a two-story structure, completed in 1855, and the same year a private school was organized by C. W. Gillilan, using this building.

The United Presbyterian Church secured the use of part of this building, which was completed by the congregation for a lien on the property. The school directors eventually purchased the church's interest and converted it into a public school, called the Utica Academy. It was used until 1886, when it was burned to the ground. This was a heavy loss to the borough. The present building, a large two-story frame structure, containing four large rooms, was erected the same year, at a cost of \$3,200.

The first schoolhouse at Polk was a small plank building, erected where the one of today stands, as early as 1829. It was used about thirty years, until the erection of a frame house on the site of the present brick building, which was put up in 1868.

French Creek has now nine schools, one of which, at Utica, ranks as a third-class high school, that is, a school which has a one-year course. There is also one at Polk with the same course.

The first school in Richland township was taught in 1824 by Samuel Stroup, one of whose early successors was Charles McClatchey. The house was on the Donaldson farm, and exhibited marvelous architecture. The dimensions were twelve by fourteen feet; the walls were built of unhewn logs; clapboards kept in place by weight poles formed the roof; huge logs were burned in an open fireplace, while the smoke found outlet through a wooden chimney; light was admitted by a long and narrow opening between the logs. The door was formed of a single chestnut puncheon swung on wooden hinges. In 1830, the Huston schoolhouse was built where the roads to Embleton and Red Valley diverge. The Swamp school since known as Maple Hollow was one of the earliest. Mrs. Andrew Porter is remembered as teaching in a building owned by James Agnew at an early date. The first house for school purposes in that part of the township was built on land given by Joseph Fox. It will be noted that the earliest schools had no abiding place, but were had wherever a room could be obtained. It is noted also that many a public-spirited citizen donated the land upon which schools were built and set examples not followed to any alarming extent. Richland now has ten schools, each with a term of seven months. One of these is ranked by the State superintendent as a third-class high school.

The first school in Cherrytree township was taught in the winter of 1807 by William Reynolds, in a log dwelling house previously occupied by James Hamilton. The first schoolhouse was built in 1809 on the Peebles farm, by Ninian Irwin, then owner of the land, who taught the first term of school there in the following winter and another term in the winter of 1812-13. His pupils for the most part consisted of the young men and women of the neighborhood. The second schoolhouse was built at Cherrytree village, and John Ward and A. G. Siverly were among the first teachers there. The first frame building was erected in

1828 at Breedtown by Ninian and James Irwin. Prominent among the early teachers of the township after those mentioned were Elial Farr, James Hamilton, Richard Irwin, James Spencer, Robert Archer, John Gayetty, Alexander Hays and Hugh Hamilton. Cherrytree now has ten schools with terms of seven months.

The report of the State superintendent of public instruction for 1876 states that the first schoolhouse in Plum township was built in 1830, and mentions among the early teachers Mary Chapman, W. W. Davison, Mary McIntosh, William Haslet and John Haslet. The Union schoolhouse, in the southwestern part of the township, Hoover's schoolhouse, near R. R. Grove's, Fairview, in the northeastern part of the township, and the schoolhouses at Diamond and Chapmanville, were the educational centers during the first half of the nineteenth century. Plum township has now nine schools, all with seven months' terms but two, which have nine months. One of these schools is ranked by the State superintendent as a second-class high school, that is, a school having a three years' course.

The Sunville Academy in this township was founded in the year 1873. The building, a frame structure of symmetrical proportions two stories in height surrounded by a plat of ground two acres in extent, was erected at a cost of five thousand dollars, the building committee consisting of Samuel Axtell, D. W. Goodwin, A. J. Cowan and A. W. Richey. A sum sufficient to have erected an ordinary school building was contributed by the township directors, the remainder being contributed by private individuals; but a deficit of two thousand dollars remained unprovided for until assumed by the borough of Sunville. The first term of the academy opened in the autumn of 1873 with S. H. Prather as principal; he was succeeded by D. D. Rowley, W. A. Bushnell, H. H. Weber, and W. S. Smith. The borough school board has now established a high school in this building.

In Rockland township, the first schoolhouse stood on the farm of John Hetzler. The second was built on the same farm, near the Jolly schoolhouse, and Jane Porter and James Donaldson were the first teachers of the schools. Another early house was placed on land then owned by David Smith, and William Parker was one of its first teachers. The site of the Shannon schoolhouse has been used for educational purposes from a very early date. It

was given by Andrew Maitland. Sylvester Randall, William and Robert Walker were early teachers there. Pine Hill schoolhouse was built on vacant land owned by the Birmingham estate, and among the early pedagogues there were Rebecca Layton, Nancy Williams and Calvin Johnson. The Red Lion school was built on land given by John Graham. There was no schoolhouse in the eastern part of the township until after the adoption of the public school system, when the Shearer schoolhouse was built. The State superintendent in 1877 gives the respective dates on which the schoolhouses then in existence were built: The Jolly schoolhouse in 1854; the Collingwood, in 1856; the Weaver, in 1859; the Shannon, 1861; the Red Lion, 1864; the Western, 1868; the Domer, 1867; the Scrubgrass, 1868; the Pin Oak, in 1869. Rockland now has nine schools, with terms of seven months with the exception of one which has a nine months' term. It has one high school with a three years' course.

The first schoolhouse in Pinegrove township was built in 1835 on the President road. The first teacher was John B. McCalmont. In the Pennsylvania school report for 1877 the following appears regarding subsequent teachers: "G. S. Criswell, John McKissick and C. Heydrick, of the Venango county bar; John Fertig, who has been twice mayor of Titusville and a member of the legislature; John Gilger, a lawyer in Iowa; G. W. Beatty and William Domer, both of whom are ministers; F. D. Sulinger, John McCrea and George McCray, are among the number who have been teachers in Pinegrove." The township now has eight schools, each having a seven months' term.

In Cranberry township the necessity for educational facilities seems to have become apparent in several neighborhoods at about the same time. In the winter of 1829 or 1830 John Hastings employed William Moore to teach his children in a room of the "red house" at the ferry opposite Franklin. This school was also attended by members of several neighboring families. The first house for school purposes in this neighborhood was a log building on the State road east of the brick house, and Nathan Beck from Center county was the first teacher there. The house was built by John Heasley, who furnished the lumber and took an active interest in the enterprise. The first school in the vicinity of Mt. Zion Church was held in a log building owned by Isaac Karns and taught by Ann Beck. Among her early suc-

cessors was Adam Sheffer. The first building erected for school purposes was a log house built upon a ten-acre lot offered by the Birmingham Estate for school and church usages. The trustees of Mt. Zion Church were dissatisfied with the location, however, and in the end the ten acres of land were purchased by the township. It has since proved to be fairly productive oil territory, and yields annually much more than the price originally paid. In the vicinity of Salem Andrew McCurry was the first school teacher, John McBride giving the ground for the first schoolhouse, which stood a half mile east of that village. Rebecca and Ellen Rose and James Dunn were among the first teachers there. The first schoolhouse in the southwestern part of the township was built by the joint efforts of the citizens and stood on the Nicklin farm. There was a schoolhouse on the land of James Thompson at "The Meadows" prior to 1830, and Ann Beck was one of the first teachers. After the adoption of the public school system the first tax collector was Jacob Zeigler, who was a member of the first board of school directors and treasurer of that body thirty years. Cranberry has now twenty-three schools, and the term is seven months.

That the pioneers of Canal township set a proper value upon educational training is evident from the fact that schools were established in nearly every neighborhood as soon as a sufficient number of children could be gathered together. One of the earliest schools was taught by Jacob Norcross in a small cabin on the Wentworth farm, opposite the Heydrick farm, in the fall and winter of 1808-09. It was patronized by the families of Samuel Evans, Samuel Bunnell, John Coxson, James McCune, William Hood, Alexander Johnston, Thomas Russell, James Martin, John Daily, John Smith, Robert Robb and Hugh Moore, the majority of whom were residents of Mercer county. The school lasted four months, and had an average attendance of twenty-nine pupils. One of the first schoolhouses in the township was built in what is known as the Fairview district, one and a half miles north of Utica, as early as the year 1826. It was a small, round-log building, with neither floor nor window, and was first used by Miss Barbara Brookmyer, who taught a term in the winter of 1826-27. The patrons of the school included the Hasson, Johnston, Ray, Duffield and Cooper families. The building was used several years. Among the early teachers were Solomon Jennings, Mr. Dodd, Samuel McGaw,

William Gordon, William Mead and Susan Oliver. A hewed log building about half a mile from the old Fairview house on the David Gilmore farm was built soon after, and served its purpose for many years. The following is a partial list of its teachers: William Hutchinson, Samuel Wood, Alexander McGaw, Ethan Stone, William McQuaid, Michael Henry, Alexander Cochran, Kindell Muse, Robert Defrance, Mary Sage, Charlotte Crouch, Minnie Crouch, and Lucy Hale. The McCune schoolhouse in the northwestern part of the township was built in 1830 by William Groves. Solomon Jennings, William Myers and Allen McCracken taught in this building as well as others whose names cannot be obtained. Some time in the forties a hewed log building was erected not far from the Sugar Creek line. The early teachers were James Daily, Thomas Goff and Rev. J. A. Hallock. This was the first schoolhouse in the township built by public funds. The second was the Gibbons schoolhouse, and the third the Fairview, the latter built to replace the old log house on the Gilmore place about one mile from Utica. The second building was a large plank structure in which at one time there were two teachers and over one hundred pupils. The district being afterward divided, the building was remodeled and made smaller. Other houses were erected throughout the township, the Foster building being among the earliest. Among the earliest teachers employed, before 1840, were the following: Messrs. Sheep, Elderkin, Russell, Long, Fly, Wood, Atkins, Cochran, Smith, Singleton, Boughner and Hill. Canal township has seven schools now, with seven months' terms.

Cornplanter township's first schoolhouse was built in the woods, near the road leading from Plumer to Petroleum Center. Probably the first teacher was David Tyrrell, whose school was attended by the Ricketts, McCalmonds, McFates, Lambs, and others whose names are not recorded. The second schoolhouse stood upon the site of the Plumer United Presbyterian Church, and Mrs. Letitia Culbertson, Moses Ward, Ellen Bruce, James Neill and Luther Woods were early teachers there. An early schoolhouse was also at the mouth of Oil creek. Three buildings were erected in 1839, one at Petroleum Center, another on the Ricketts farm, and a third at Humboldt. Alfred Taylor was the first teacher at Ricketts. The schoolhouse at Petroleum Center was known as McCray's. Alexander Hays was probably the first teacher at Humboldt. At

the present there are sixteen schools in the township, having eight months' terms. There is no township high school.

In Sandy Creek township the first schoolhouse was built in 1819, on the land of Alexander McElhaney, by the united efforts of the community. Isaac Bunnell was the first teacher. John Foster employed teachers at his own expense and appropriated a room in his own house for the education of his own and his neighbors' children. Alexander Hays was employed to teach there in 1825-26. In 1834 a hewn log house was built at the Graham cemetery, and in 1836 a similar building was erected near the residence of James Foster. Prominent among the teachers of the township were John Elder, Lowrie Gildersleeve, Ethan Strong, Henry Clulow, W. C. Howe, William Clement, C. P. Ramsdell, Robert Martin, David Moore, Isaac Evans, Robert Shorts, Revs. R. S. and E. C. Borland. This township has now seven schools, with seven months' terms. None of them rank as high schools.

John Kelly taught the first school in Oakland township in 1805 at the house of Jonah Reynolds. William Morehead was also a pioneer teacher, holding his school in a log cabin on the farm of Francis Prichard. No building was erected for school purposes until 1807, when a schoolhouse was put up on the farm of George Kean. The first school there was taught by Michael Hare, a Revolutionary veteran and a man of ability. He died in Erie at a very old age. The second schoolhouse was built on Kean run, at the crossing of the Oil Creek road, and William Morehead was its first teacher. In 1817 people living on the Franklin road built a schoolhouse one mile west of Dempseytown. Joseph Kean, the first teacher, lived to be the oldest school teacher in the county. Among his early successors were James Vanatan, Mary Gage, John Beers and Alexander Hays. A schoolhouse was built in 1827 on the Folwell farm, in the northwestern part of the township, and another near the residence of Robert Haslet. The schools at both places had large patronage. Oakland township has at present ten schools, one with a nine months' term, the others seven. It has one high school of the third class.

According to the report of the State superintendent of public instruction for 1877, Ithiel Dodd was one of the first teachers in Jackson township, this county. He also conducted several singing schools, being a good musician.

His son, Levi Dodd, was an elder in the Franklin Presbyterian Church for more than fifty years, and his grandson, S. C. T. Dodd, became general counsel for the Standard Oil Company in New York City. Among Mr. Dodd's successors in educational work were Eliza Hamilton, Thomas Benn, Edmund Warner, the Misses Patton, McAlevy and Keys, and William Myers. The Fetterman schoolhouse was undoubtedly one of the earliest in the Sugar Creek valley, and some of the pupils who attended lived beyond the present limits of Jackson township. The Cooperstown Academy, established by S. S. Briggs and under the control of a local board, was of high character and enjoyed a prosperous career. The building was afterward used for public school purposes. There are now five schools in this township. The length of the term is seven months.

Patrick McCrea, the first settler in President township, was an educated man, and he taught his children at home, and this may properly be called the earliest school in the township. The first schoolhouses were at Walnut Bend, President, Big Rock, and one on the Culbertson farm, in each of which very small schools were conducted. During the time of Mr. E. E. Clapp's residence at President, while he was trying to convert the countryside into a summer resort, he contributed very liberally to the building and equipment of a schoolhouse in the little village of President. The house was fitted with modern desks and well supplied with pure spring water brought in pipes from the hillside. It was unique in its equipment. He took great personal pride in it, although there were very few children to attend. It was believed that Mr. Clapp paid many times as much toward this schoolhouse as all the rest of the taxpayers, not because he was obliged to do so, but because he wished the children of President to have all possible advantages. President township now has four schools with terms of seven months.

The first schoolhouse in Clinton township was a log building on the farm of John Witherup, and John McClaran was the first teacher. Another early schoolhouse was a frame building on the farm of Craft Ghost which stood until 1888, known as Christy's school, and John and James Kimes, Eliza Phipps (afterward Mrs. A. G. Egbert) and Lavinia Hackett were among those who officiated as teachers. Dr. E. H. Geibner, of Sandy Lake, George A. Allen, of Erie, Frank W. Adams, J. D.

Chadwick, of Franklin, Belle Cross, and a Friend named Ray were also engaged at this school and the other one in the same district, the building later erected on the farm of David Phipps. On the farm of Richard Surrena (later owned by Sylvester Baker) was a fairly well built schoolhouse for the period, which was accidentally burned one night after spelling school. The Riddle school, located on the main road to Emlenton, at the crossroads near the cemetery, was taught by Jane Riggs, Ann Leason, Joseph Eakin, Matthew Riddle, James Riddle, and others. A commodious building for school and church purposes was erected immediately after the furnace was built by John Anderson, at Scrubgrass, as early perhaps at 1824-25, and excellent teachers were employed, Rebecca Devoe (Mrs. Eli Phipps). Mr. McGoldrick, Calvin Waite, Rev. David Law, Alexander F. Stevenson, Elizabeth Whann (who married Joseph Phipps), Ann Kilpatrick (Mrs. John Pollock) and Mr. Hayden being typical of the high class of instructors engaged, who left a lasting impression for good on those under their care. The Foster school, another early building, stood on the land of S. Simcox, and there was another, the Scott school, a mile from the Butler line. When the township was redistricted, in 1856, the buildings previously in use were abandoned. Six districts were then formed. Local educational work had received an impetus in 1855 in the erection of Jane's Union Academy at Clintonville, by Mr. and Mrs. William Cross. Among its teachers were McLain Cross, W. H. H. Kennedy, Thomas Seaton, George A. Allen, E. Pollock, J. R. Donnelly, Frank W. Adams, Mrs. A. G. Egbert and William Cross. The township now has seven schools, with terms of seven months. Clintonville has four schools, with eight months' terms, and one high school of the third class.

The first schoolhouse built in Oil Creek township stood in the woods at the head of a ravine called Plumdungeon, midway between the farms of William Poor and Samuel Fleming. The first male teacher there was Hamilton Campbell, from Erie county, who taught several terms, and among his early successors were George Granis and John Sanney. Another early schoolhouse was situated on the plank road a mile and a half from Pleasantville. When the public school system was first adopted two schools were maintained in the township, Prospect Hill, which took the place of Plumdungeon, and the school on the plank road already mentioned, the Redfield school,

two and a half miles from Titusville, being established a little later. At the height of the first oil excitement, the increased population made ten schools necessary. At present there are five schools in the township, and seven in Pleasantville borough.

Aaron Benedict built the first schoolhouse in Pleasantville in 1823, on the eastern border of the settlement, and the first teacher was Austin Merrick, who is represented as an accomplished penman. His immediate successors were principally female teachers. This schoolhouse was for many years the place of worship of the Baptist congregation.

With the arrival of M. C. Beebe, from Fabius, N. Y., in 1846, educational affairs in Pleasantville had a notable impetus, and his influence indeed extended to all parts of the county. He assumed the management of the schools at once. The first union school building in the county was erected here in 1853. The schools were conducted by Mr. Beebe and two assistants. In 1854 he was elected the first superintendent of Venango county, serving until 1857. A commodious brick building, erected in 1873, has been ample for all needs, and compares favorably with similar structures in the larger towns of the county. In the borough the schools have terms of nine months, while in the township the term is seven months. Pleasantville has a high school of the first class.

Mrs. M. S. Beebe, widow of the first superintendent of Venango county schools, lives at Pleasantville, and at the age of eighty-eight recalls vividly the experience of her husband in those far-off days. She writes under date of Nov. 25, 1918:

"Mr. Beebe's first trip through the country as superintendent was greeted with disfavor, as the people considered a superintendent an unnecessary expense, merely as an excuse for increased taxation. He visited every school in the county, and in some instances was not even greeted courteously in the homes. I do not remember the number of schools, but after the first visit a favorable impression was left. The schoolhouses of that day were very similar to the houses in the poorer country districts, containing wooden benches, etc. The teachers the first year came from all over the county to our home in Pleasantville, where Mr. Beebe conducted dozens of private examinations, but on the second tour of the county he found the classes ready for examination, the people cordial, almost without exception, and the superintendent was greeted with enthusiasm.

"The homes varied in condition, as in all

country districts. One amusing incident I recall was this: One night, having been invited to stay in one of the homes of the poorer class, he slept with a barrel of sauer kraut standing at the head of his bed, which you can imagine was far from pleasant. But it showed the goodwill of the people, who would take in a stranger with their limited accommodations.

\* \* \*

"As you know probably, Mr. Beebe established the first local institutes, which were held in country districts and which proved a great inspiration and help to the cause of education.

"An incident which shows the difficulties attending the performance of his duties was this: On one occasion he was due at Raymilton, but discovered that the bridge was down, and there was no method of crossing but to ford the river. This he dared to do, as he knew the intelligence of his horse, so holding his suitcase above his head and lifting his feet from the stirrups he gave the horse the word and plunged in. The horse had to break the ice with its feet, but succeeded, and after a struggle they reached the other side safely, the watchers on the bank expecting any minute to see horse and rider go down.

"At this time there was only a small school at Oil City, in which Squire Siverly was much interested, but the best schools in the county were Clintonville, Franklin, Tionesta and Neilton (then in Venango county) and Pleasantville."

The first school building in Mineral township was built about 1820, and stood in the forest not far from Center Methodist Church, the old road leading to it being still distinguishable. The first teacher was Rachel Jones, from the State of New York, Elmira Woodworth, of Franklin, the second. A forest fire having destroyed this building another was erected half a mile distant. The second building was on the Wright farm near South Sandy. An early school was taught in an abandoned building on the Riggs farm, where G. Butler and John Elder were among the early teachers. There are to-day five schools in the township, with terms of seven months.

Victory township's first school was held in a log building erected by the joint efforts of the community, which stood near the summit of Sandy Hill on land of Samuel Irvine. Col. William Shorts secured the first teacher, Stewart Galloway, who "boarded around." Among his early successors was William Brutus Gorman, a native of Ireland, who had been im-

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

prisoned in Canada. Upon his release he started for Pittsburgh, stopping for the night, ragged and shoeless, at the house of Colonel Shorts, who, discovering that he was a man of erudition, offered to secure him the district school. He gladly accepted, and though he remained but one term, there was a tradition among old residents that he was a fine teacher and disciplinarian. The next teachers of note were David Moore and Ethan Stout. A few years later the second schoolhouse was built on the Lyons tract. There was also an early school on the McMillin farm, and Tamar Williams was the first teacher there. At present there are three schools in the township having terms of seven months.

## COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This office was created in 1854 and its incumbents, elected by the school directors of the county, have served as follows: Manley C. Beebe, 1854-57; William Burgwin, 1857-60; Charles H. Dale, 1860-72; William C. McClure, 1872-75; Silas H. Prather, 1875-84:

George B. Lord, 1884-93; John Bigler, 1893, served six years and six months; W. G. Ladds, appointed, served two and a half years; B. V. Riddle, 1902-05; Dallas W. Armstrong, 1905, present incumbent.

Under the supervision of Mr. Armstrong the schools of the county are making fine progress. Among the resolutions adopted at the last county institute were the following:

To conserve food; to spend less money for essentials and nothing for luxuries; to raise more food and to encourage boys and girls to plant gardens; to encourage children to buy savings stamps; to teach patriotism including a hatred for Prussian despotism; to be so patriotic that a slacker cannot live in our community—that he will either want to do his duty in this war or go to Germany, where he belongs; is indorsed by this convention, and we hereby pledge ourselves for the carrying out of the same to the best of our ability; and we believe that the best way to do this work is by forming the organizations in each of our districts as outlined by our county superintendent.

That it is the opinion and sense of this convention that vocal music should receive much more attention in our schools.

That we indorse the suggestions made regarding the furnishing of good current literature.

## SCHOOL STATISTICS

SCHOOL DISTRICT	No. of Schools, 1917-18	No. of Months in School Term	No. of Pupils Enrolled	Average Salary of Male Teachers	Average Salary of Female Teachers	Average Cost of Pupil Per Month	Number of Mills of School Tax Levied	Total Amount Levied	State Appropriation	Cost of Text Books	Cost of School Supplies	Estimated Value of School Property
Allegheny Tp.	2	8	35	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$2.51	6	\$ 1,399.90	\$ 561.02	\$ 6.28	\$ 27.05	\$ 2,955.00
Canal Tp.	7	7	134	45.00	51.00	2.59	6	2,344.68	1,235.42	15.00	75.08	7,000.00
Cherrytree Tp.	10	7	196	55.00	50.56	2.94	9	4,068.74	1,991.48	132.26	0.00	4,450.00
Clinton Tp.	7	7	217	60.00	55.00	2.82	6	3,396.28	1,620.96	78.44	308.54	8,000.00
Clintonville Boro.	4	8	114	105.00	57.50	2.86	20	2,515.81	857.16	378.85	13.94	6,000.00
Cooperstown Boro.	3	8	67	75.00	62.50	3.07	10	621.53	762.31	60.64	62.12	3,750.00
Cornplanter Tp.	16	8	887	54.31	2,711.10	1.00	10	7,988.76	2,828.00	140.96	320.20	29,000.00
Cranberry Tp.	23	7	578	53.70	2.28	1.00	10	15,444.63	3,877.81	449.57	543.31	57,100.00
Emleton Boro.	8	9	289	97.78	60.00	2.05	8 <sup>1/2</sup>	4,455.54	1,764.03	392.58	144.95	17,700.00
French Creek Tp.	9	7	55	55.00	55.68	1.91	7 <sup>1/2</sup>	2,883.96	1,556.08	88.00	90.58	11,400.00
Irwin Tp.	11	7 <sup>1/2</sup>	288	80.00	58.00	2.86	7	3,900.71	2,000.76	380.45	1,025.5	12,575.00
Jackson Tp.	5	7	92	55.00	50.00	2.13	8	1,897.72	1,055.88	15.73	40.75	3,800.00
Mineral Tp.	5	7	72	51.00	51.00	2.94	7	1,065.98	891.56	11.25	126.49	2,000.00
Oakland Tp.	10	7 <sup>1/2</sup>	151	65.00	51.88	3.31	7	2,871.26	2,156.79	88.10	0.00	10,800.00
Oil Creek Tp.	5	8	75	60.00	50.00	3.63	2	2,700.15	1,088.19	68.18	87.77	5,500.00
Pinegrove Tp.	8	7	220	50.00	53.25	2.17	7	3,062.94	1,472.84	259.56	93.20	8,750.00
Pleasantville Boro.	7	9	212	166.67	66.67	2.42	15	3,126.75	1,529.75	312.15	148.34	24,960.00
Plum Tp.	9	7 <sup>1/2</sup>	169	60.00	50.70	2.98	10	3,234.80	1,967.48	28.61	199.10	11,770.00
Polk Boro.	4	7 <sup>1/2</sup>	130	75.00	52.33	1.92	20	1,589.60	926.59	93.87	102.35	7,500.00
President Tp.	4	7	50	54.75	34.44	10	2,114.25	653.27	13.86	89.65	5,650.00	
Richland Tp.	10	7	225	80.00	52.50	3.44	8	3,059.20	1,528.77	237.27	272.08	10,740.00
Rockland Tp.	9	7 <sup>1/2</sup>	378	100.00	54.13	1.38	10	6,138.60	2,289.05	213.09	156.78	17,563.00
Rousseville Boro.	6	9	223	111.11	59.30	2.77	15	3,321.27	1,815.17	157.22	491.51	8,975.00
Sandy Creek Tp.	7	7	261	67.50	54.00	1.40	10	3,992.45	1,308.06	93.39	4.50	12,950.00
Scrubgrass Tp.	6	7	185	60.00	57.50	1.89	10	3,186.15	994.87	35.90	96.60	6,560.00
Sugar Creek Tp.	27	8 <sup>1/2</sup>	982	84.44	58.44	1.76	12	18,452.42	5,735.54	1,571.80	561.84	75,200.00
Sugar Creek Independent.	1	7	20	60.00	60.00	2.75	8	324.68	108.41	0.00	20.08	1,000.00
Utica Boro.	3	8	83	85.00	60.00	2.60	11	724.24	927.94	215.07	28.84	3,575.00
Victory Tp.	3	7	51	45.00	50.00	3.06	7	832.55	447.32	149.80	57.62	4,100.00
Totals and Averages.....	229	7.5	6,090	\$75.76	\$54.87	\$2.55	9.8	\$111,170.01	\$45,647.81	\$5,694.48	\$4,323.44	\$382,623.00

## CHAPTER XIX

### CHURCH HISTORY IN VENANGO COUNTY

*(By the Rev. Martin Aigner, D. D.)*

**A FOREWORD—THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—THE METHODIST CHURCH—THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH—THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—THE BAPTIST CHURCH—THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—THE UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH—THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH—THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH**

#### A FOREWORD

A man of great distinction and seventy-five years of age was asked recently to write the history of his native State. He declined the task, and added: "I am not interested in the past." It is not known what thoughts or emotions or convictions inspired his remark. Perhaps sad memories clouded the past, possibly he was absorbed in the fascinating present or, maybe, his interests, fears, and hopes have been already transferred to the future in time or eternity. However, the past in Church and State and life is fraught with absorbing interest. The past has given us the present, and out of this present there must come the more glorious future. I gladly accede, therefore, to the request to prepare a brief history of the Churches of Venango county.

The history presented here is a brief "study of origins" and a simple survey of the earlier activities of the larger denominations in the more populous centers of the county. Original research has been impossible, but the various denominational records available have been read carefully. I beg to express here my grateful sense of indebtedness to the Rev. Dr. Eaton's History of the Presbytery of Erie; to the Rev. Dr. Fradenburgh's History of the Erie Conference; to the Rev. Dr. Hotchkiss' History of the Country Clergy of Pennsylvania; to H. W. Reading's Historical Sketch of the Baptist Church; to the History of Venango County; to the "Diocesan Orbit"; to the parish records of Christ Church, Oil City; to the parish records of St. John's Church, Franklin; to the church records of the United Evangelical Church; to the Memoirs of Bishop White; to the Convention Addresses of Bishop Whitehead, and to the historical brochure of Stillé, of the University of Pennsylvania.

#### THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It is certain that French chaplains and English chaplains officiated here and there in the wilds of western Pennsylvania during the latter half of the eighteenth century, but the distinction of assembling regularly and establishing places of Christian worship in the county of Venango before other Christians belongs to the Presbyterians.

After the close of the Revolution there came to these parts a great influx of people from eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. They were a sturdy folk, mostly of Scotch and Irish ancestry, and generally of stanch Covenanter and ultra-Protestant traditions. As soon as the fear of Indians was removed the hardy settlers moved northward and westward to subdue the wilderness, to establish themselves, and to worship the God of their fathers. They very naturally inclined to Presbyterianism. "They saw the importance of having the standard of the gospel planted at the commencement of their new settlement. In all their meetings for prayer they earnestly besought the Lord that He would send them a godly man, to break to them the Bread of Life, and be the instrument of laying the foundation of a rising church in the wilderness. Their prayers were heard, and thus God in a short time selected out of these and other families materials for the organization of a church." This was written of Beaver county, but was also true of the entire upper tier of counties, inclusive of Venango. They were a devoted lot, those early pioneers, and they put to shame our softer age. They worshipped first under the overarching trees, then in barns, and later in what were little better than barn-like structures. They sat through services lasting for hours and, in the early days of the settlement,

without a vestige of fire even in midwinter. And they gave generously of their little store for the church, which was at best only a log cabin. A devoted saint of God, Thomas Rice, in a neighboring county well expressed the spirit of that day among men whose hearts God had touched: "The first dollar I ever gave to the Lord in the support of His worship, was the only one I possessed at the time; and it was given as cheerfully as I have ever given one since."

#### *Lower Sandy Church*

The first Presbyterian congregation organized in Venango county was that of Lower Sandy, in the year 1800, or shortly afterward. The Rev. William Wylie was the first regular pastor. He was ordained and installed on April 13, 1802, and he had charge of the congregation at Upper Sandy in Mercer county, as also of that at Lower Sandy, and the congregation at Fairfield. The Rev. Cyrus Riggs succeeded the Rev. Mr. Wylie in 1807, and it was during his pastorate that the name of Lower Sandy was changed to Mill Creek. He remained five years and did excellent work, although there were only nineteen members. They, however, must have held their services in private houses and later on must have disintegrated, not to say degenerated, for the Rev. Robert Glenn records that "The church of Mill Creek was organized in the fall of 1827, by Rev. Ira Condit and Ezekial Condit, elder, at the house of John Gordon, there being as yet no meeting-house. By a vote of the congregation, the two oldest members were chosen elders, namely, John Gordon and James Adams. The congregation, feeling the necessity of having a place to worship in, and not being able to hire a workman to build one, resolved to build a house with their own hands, there being several of them acquainted with the use of tools."

#### *Scrubgrass*

The church at Scrubgrass is a close second for the honors of priority. The Second Presbyterian congregation in the county was established at Scrubgrass. It was organized in 1802-03. Its first pastor was the Rev. Robert Johnston, who was ordained and installed on Oct. 19, 1803, and he was also pastor of the church at Bear Creek. He did a really great work in these fields. This church has a most interesting history, having associated with it some great names in Presbyterianism. It has sent

out ten worthy ministers of Christ. The first church was of logs. The present edifice is of stone.

The church at *Big Sugar Creek* was organized in 1813, although services had been held there for some time at intervals. The Rev. Ira Condit was the first pastor, ordained and installed by the Presbytery of Erie on Nov. 8, 1814. He also had the care of the congregation at Fairfield. Indeed, he and all the succeeding pastors shepherded several congregations, extending their ministrations to other scattered populations, and also to Franklin. Among its pastors we find the Rev. Cyrus Dickson, the Rev. James Coulter and the Rev. Robert Glenn, the latter a name somewhat well known in Franklin.

#### *Franklin*

The church in Franklin was organized in 1817. The Rev. Ira Condit was the leader in this work and John Broadfoot and James Gilliland were chosen elders. As in other instances, the Franklin Presbyterians needed some adjustments after a few years of organized life, and the church was reorganized in 1821 by the joint action of the Rev. Alexander Cook and the Rev. Cyrus Riggs. The first settled pastor came in 1826. He was the Rev. Thomas Anderson, and the elders serving about the same time were Andrew Bowman and Levi Dodd. In 1830 the first church was erected. Later the Rev. Cyrus Dickson appears as the pastor, 1837 to 1848. Still later we have the Rev. S. J. M. Eaton. It was during his pastorate, 1849 to 1882, that the present large brick church was built, the cornerstone being laid on July 9, 1867. During that winter a most memorable revival was held, one hundred and eleven converts being received. The Rev. John McCoy succeeded Dr. Eaton. He was especially notable as a preacher, but his pastorate was brief, 1882 to 1886. The Rev. Dr. Bruce had here a most successful pastorate, 1887 to 1896. He was succeeded by the genial and greatly loved Canadian pastor, the Rev. W. Y. Chapman, 1896 to 1902. Then came the popular young pastor, the Rev. Robert Bruce Beatty, and his very able and efficient successor, the Rev. James Albert Patterson, D. D., who has been pastor since 1913. The Presbyterians have had men of mark, and Dr. Patterson is no exception.

The Franklin church is one of the strongest church organizations in the county, having had a membership of 1,086 at the time of the cele-

bration of its centennial in 1917, and indeed one of the strongest—if not the strongest congregation in the Erie Presbytery. The Presbyterian church at Rocky Grove was a mission chapel of this church, but is now an independent congregation, most admirably and efficiently served by the Rev. T. W. Pearson.

The church at *Concord* was organized in 1826. Services had been held there for some years, but at this time the Rev. Thomas Anderson took charge of this congregation. He was installed as pastor on Sept. 19, 1826. There was here a succession of pastors, each of whom remained about five years, so at regular intervals the pastor departed and another came to take his place: the Rev. G. W. Hampton, then the Rev. James Coulter, Rev. M. A. Parkinson and Rev. W. J. Alexander, and then—but we must leave Concord and go to *Cherrytree*.

The church at *Cherrytree* was organized in 1837. Thirteen members constituted the congregation. The first pastor was the Rev. G. W. Hampton. The elders serving at the time of the organization were John Irwin and John Rynd. Later on there appears as the stated supply of the congregation the Rev. W. C. Birchard. Some devoted men have ministered to the congregation at *Cherrytree* and the people there, as many other Presbyterians, are good exemplars of the perseverance of the saints.

The church at *Mount Pleasant* was organized in 1842. The first regular pastor was the Rev. S. J. M. Eaton. He was installed as such Feb. 7, 1849, and gave only one third of his time to this work because of his other "charges." He was succeeded by the Rev. James Coulter, the Rev. J. G. Condit, and the Rev. John McKean. The two former also ministered to the people at *Waterloo*.

The church at *Waterloo* was organized on March 5, 1854. The congregation was composed largely of members of the Franklin church and of members living at Mill Creek. It was never a strong organization. It depended chiefly upon supplies. The Revs. Messrs. Coulter and Condit, already mentioned, and the Rev. Henry Newell, held services and supplied it with pastoral ministrations. James Gilliland, sometime an elder in the Franklin church, erected the church edifice at his own expense.

On June 19, 1860, a church was organized at *Mount Vernon*. On May 9, 1867, the name was changed to *Pleasantville*. The congregation was really a colony from the church at Concord. It seemed to the good people at Concord that there would be a finer outlook from Mount Vernon, and they must have realized their expectations, for they changed even that beautiful name to Pleasantville. They began with twelve members. The Rev. J. J. Smyth supplied them with services for some time.

### *Oil City*

Early in 1861 the first Presbyterian congregation was gathered at *Oil City*. The name of the clergyman who took part in this work is lost. The two ruling elders were Adam Turner and C. C. Waldo. They may have added to their goodness so much vigor that they ruled the minister out. The services were probably at first supplied by itinerant ministers. In 1863 the Rev. W. P. Moore became the stated supply. With the growth of *Oil City* the Presbyterians grew in numerical strength.

Under the direction of the Presbytery of Erie, the Rev. S. J. M. Eaton of Franklin opened a Presbyterian Mission in *Oil City* on Nov. 7, 1860. The great influx of people on account of the oil excitement made it possible to organize a congregation. The organization was effected under the leadership of the Revs. Messrs. Eaton and J. M. Shields in December, 1861, under the title of the First Presbyterian Church. For ten years the congregation, stimulated by revivals, grew rapidly in numbers and influence. The services were at first held in private houses. Later the congregation met in the schoolhouse near the Lake Shore station, then in the Michigan building until its destruction by fire. The congregation then moved to the second floor of a building at Main and Ferry streets and worshipped there until the completion of the church in 1865. The new church was dedicated on July 23, 1865, the Rev. David Hall, D. D., officiating. In 1871 some dissensions arose in the congregation and forty-nine members withdrew. In 1876 the congregation was incorporated with Joseph Bushnell as the president; J. E. Conell, secretary; John J. Brodhead, treasurer, and George W. Parker and W. W. White as trustees. In 1878 the property adjoining the church was purchased, and in 1883 a member of the congregation, J. J. Vandergrift, suggested the erection of a larger and more worthy house of worship. The new church project was taken

up with great vigor. The prime mover and the following were appointed a building committee: Messrs. Young, Fisher, Stevenson, Rand, Parker, Bushman and the pastor, the Rev. J. N. MacGonigle. A very worthy church edifice designed by a New York architect was erected, finished and paid for on June 21, 1883. On June 22d the church was dedicated by the pastor. Having thus "strengthened the stakes" of the church and being thus finely equipped, the trustees proceeded to "lengthen her cords" and to extend the Christian ministrations to others. They built a Mission Chapel on Palace Hill in 1885. It was dedicated in January, 1886, by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. MacGonigle.

The Second Presbyterian Church of Oil City, on the South Side, is really the outgrowth of the "First Presbyterian Church of Venango City." It was organized under the authority of the Clarion Presbytery on Jan. 13, 1866, by a committee composed of the Revs. Messrs. Kincaid and Shirley, and Elder L. Watson. Twenty-nine members entered into the organization. A hall was secured at the corner of Front street and Central avenue, and in this place services were held for two years by various supplies. The Rev. N. S. McFetridge, of the First Church, Oil City, often officiated for the struggling congregation. After a precarious existence of over two years the congregation disbanded, the remaining members going to the First Church. But in 1870 the slumbering Presbyterians on the South Side awakened and saw the vision of a Presbyterian Church in their midst. Capt. John Munhall moved to secure a lot at the corner of First and Reed streets. Services were resumed in various halls and churches. The influx from the First Church greatly helped the congregation. The increasing population and growing congregation made the building of a church both desirable and practicable. In May, 1872, at the suggestion of Dr. R. Colbert, a meeting was called to consider the matter. The following attended: Messrs. William McNair, John Munhall, T. H. Williams, John Spear, David Sterrett, W. H. Kinter, W. W. White, George Porter and Drs. Colbert and Arter. The drawing of plans was authorized, and on June 14th these plans were adopted and at once put into execution. The new church was dedicated on Jan. 19, 1873, the services being conducted by the Rev. David Hall, D. D., and the Rev. David McFall. The first pastor, the Rev. David T. Carnahan, was called on July 25, 1873, and assumed his duties in September. He was a revivalist of great power and a financier of exceptional ability, building up the congre-

gation spiritually and financially. The years 1875 and 1876 were especially fruitful.

Another notable pastorate is that of the Rev. W. F. Wood. It began on Nov. 17, 1882, the new pastor being installed at a special service at which Rev. John McCoy, the Rev. L. M. Gilliland, and the Rev. J. N. MacGonigle officiated. The congregation grew rapidly, and in 1884 an enlarged and renovated church was dedicated. The building committee for this greatly improved structure consisted of Messrs. J. B. Smithman, Duncan McIntosh, P. Schreiber and John H. McElroy. The dedication sermon was preached by the pastor. There was some indebtedness, but this was paid in 1888. It has been a busy congregation. The pastor having the genius of organization and the people a mind to work, have combined to make the Second Church one of the most highly organized Presbyterian churches in the State of Pennsylvania.

The pastorate of the Rev. S. A. Cornelius was greatly blessed. Under his guidance the various organizations did a splendid work. The brick church which served the congregation well for a quarter of a century was displaced in 1912-13 by a very imposing grey stone church, with a fine exterior and an interior well arranged for the various church activities. The Rev. L. W. Sherwin is now the able and efficient pastor. The congregation is a large contributor to the missionary and charitable activities of the denomination at home and abroad.

#### *Emlenton*

On Sept. 29, 1857, thirty-two Presbyterians residing in Emlenton, but attending the services of the Richland Presbyterian Church, addressed a memorial to the Clarion Presbytery asking leave to organize a Presbyterian congregation in Emlenton. The request was refused. A second memorial with fifty signers was addressed to the Presbytery at its meeting on Dec. 9, 1857, and was granted, and Revs. Messrs. David McCoy and James Montgomery, and Elders J. B. Lawson and Samuel Keifer, were authorized to effect the organization. Accordingly on Jan. 13, 1858, the church was organized. The signers of the memorial became members of the congregation. Prominent among them were the following: Alexander B. Crawford, Mary Crawford, Mary S. Junkin, Mrs. Louisa Widle, Robert Colbert, Mrs. Ellen J. Russell, Mrs. Lucy Truby, B. F. Junkin, John F. Agnew, James M. Agnew, Mrs. Julia P. Agnew, Mrs. Susan M. Agnew,

Benjamin Junkin, Mrs. Ann M. Junkin, J. F. Agnew, Dorcas Porterfield, Hannah J. Wilson, John Camp, Mrs. Nancy L. Campbell, Jane Ohort, Ann Ohort. Messrs. Alexander B. Crawford and Benjamin Junkin were chosen ruling elders. For some years the Presbytery sent supplies to Emlenton. Among these we find the Revs. Messrs. Colledge, Mitchell, Travis, Coulter, Mateer and McKean. The first pastor, Rev. M. M. Shirley, took charge in 1864. He was succeeded by the Rev. Andrew Virtue in 1868. The Rev. Josiah McPherrin came as a supply in 1872, and was installed as pastor on May 12, 1873. On June 22, 1886, the Rev. Boyd F. Williams became the pastor, having served for nearly a year as the stated supply. The congregation met at first in the Town Hall. In 1859 a frame church edifice was erected on Water street and dedicated Jan. 13, 1860. The entrance of the railroad made the location impossible, and the congregation sought another site. Finally, in 1874, the present brick structure was erected, and the new church was dedicated on Aug. 27, 1875.

The church at *Cochranton* came into the Presbyterian connection on Sept. 26, 1867. It had existed for years, certainly from about 1811, as a branch of the United Presbyterian Church, and was then ministered to by the Rev. Robert Johnston. It seems to have possessed a migratory spirit or the genius of itineracy. In 1820 it passed into the connection of the Associate Reformed Church. The Rev. Mr. Patton ministered at Cochranton for some time.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH

In 1804 the Baltimore Conference appointed Thornton Fleming Presiding Elder of the Monongahela District, and Andrew Hemphill preacher in charge of the Erie Circuit, which included Venango county, taking its name no doubt from Fort Venango. Mr. Hemphill at once organized a class at Greggs, now Pioneer, on Oil creek. John Gregg, Hannah Gregg, and Sallie Stevenson became members of this congregation. A class was also formed at Pithole. In this organization the names of Dawson, Siggins, Kinnear, and Henderson appear prominently.

#### *Franklin*

In the fall of 1804 Mr. Hemphill, accompanied by William Connelly, who acted as

guide, came to Franklin to form a congregation. His reception was not cordial. He was refused the privilege of occupying the schoolhouse; thereupon, taking his stand under an old chestnut tree on the diamond, he delivered the first Methodist sermon before a Franklin audience. There were probably at this time no Methodists in Franklin, and but few members of any denomination.

William Connelly, one of the earliest Methodists in northwestern Pennsylvania, was at this time a resident of Oil Creek, the present Titusville. He had passed through Franklin, the then Fort Venango, as a member of a surveying party in 1795. He was well qualified to act as a guide through the wilderness of Venango. In 1809 he became a resident of Franklin and a potent factor in Methodist affairs. In 1810 Jacob Gruber was presiding elder of the Monongahela District, and John Monroe was appointed preacher for the Erie Circuit. He preached to the congregations at Pithole and at "Mrs. Mitchell's," and he, at this time, formed a class at Franklin. William Connelly, John Lupher, and William McElhaney and their families made up this first Methodist congregation in Franklin. In 1812 Jacob Young, the presiding elder of the Ohio District, held services in the village at the mouth of French creek, and William Connelly, now a local preacher, accompanied him on a missionary tour. James B. Finley, John P. Kent, and Ira Eddy also engaged in mission labors throughout the county in those early days. James B. Finley became presiding elder in 1816, and at this time William Connelly gave a lot for the erection of a church; but the good brethren did not build until 1833. This first Methodist church was completed in 1834. In 1820 the General Conference of the Methodist Church changed the boundaries of the Genesee and Ohio Conferences, and in the change divided Franklin, giving a part of it to each of these conferences. This cutting in half did not affect Franklin greatly, either for the better or the worse. In those days all concerned in the work of the Kingdom of God had to endure hardness as good soldiers of Christ. Presiding Elder Gruber said to his preachers as he sent them forth: "Hard work, but good and certain pay—bread and meat given, and water, living water sure, including grace and glory; everything that is good here, and a crown hereafter." He evidently was a remarkable man. Henry Boehm says of him: "He had a German face and a German tongue, and often looked quizzical. He wore a drab hat, and a suit cut in Quaker style. With a rough

exterior but a kind heart, it was necessary to know him in order to appreciate him. A more honest man never lived, a nobler soldier of the cross never wielded 'the sword of the Spirit.' As a preacher he was original and eccentric. His powers of irony, sarcasm and ridicule were tremendous, and woe to the poor fellow who got into his hands; he would wish himself somewhere else. I heard him preach scores of times, and always admired him; not only for his originality, but at all times there was a marvelous unction attending his word."

Equally noteworthy were the elders following him: Jacob Young, James B. Finley, and William Swayze. Resourceful, masterful men were these—men who did things. The men who succeeded them were men of like temper, spirit, and energy, hence the growth of the Methodist congregations. It seems especially fitting to refer to the pioneer Methodist minister of Franklin. In the exacting labors and successes of those early days he had a large share. "He was, in the best sense of the word, a revivalist; he acted on the principle that he is the best preacher who wins the most souls to Christ. As a preacher he was grave, sincere, pure in doctrine, original in thought, affectionate in address. He performed all the duties of a Methodist preacher. He was careful to fold the sheep of the Lord's pasture, he kept the fence in good order, he paid particular attention to the organization of the societies, and the improvement of church property. He was scrupulously punctual as to time, and, until his afflictions toward the close of life considerably embarrassed his movements, hardly ever missed an appointment."

One can not but mention at least one devoted Methodist layman of that formative period, namely, George Siggins, who came to Venango county in 1801. He was a great worker because he was a devout Christian. Writes a biographer, "One of the first memories of my grandfather, George Siggins, is one of the family sitting before the great fireplace, where huge logs fed the flames that were roaring up the black throat of the chimney; and of step-grandmother cooking and baking before the fire, where on the ample hearth she had drawn the glowing coals. Here they would gather night and morning for the family worship." At Hickorytown he was instrumental in having a little meeting-house built, and also a schoolhouse. He organized debating clubs, and encouraged the young people to take part. He attended Methodist quarterly meetings far and wide, and was ever ready to assist in the services. He was a man of courtly bearing, gen-

erous in all his impulses, sincere and cordial in his kindly and Christian greetings to all, strict in integrity, firm in adhesion to principles, and, all in all, a noble, manly man. He maintained a high standard of morals, and sought to model his life after the example of Christ.

In 1867 the Methodists of Franklin under the pastorate of the Rev. J. H. Tagg began to build a large and beautiful church on Liberty street. Bishop Matthew Simpson laid the cornerstone. The church was dedicated by him in 1869. Among the other outstanding pastors of the First Methodist Church in Franklin there appear prominently the Rev. Dr. Osborne, the Rev. Mr. Hall, the Rev. Dr. Bowers, the Rev. Robert E. Brown, the Rev. Dr. Herbert A. Ellis, under whose supervision the fine new church was erected in 1915, and the Rev. A. Norris White, D. D., who has just commenced his labors.

*The Church at Big Sandy.*—It seems quite probable the Methodist itinerants began to minister to the widely scattered population in the territory about five miles south of Franklin in the year 1801-02 in their little log cabins, although no classes or congregations were formed there in the opening years of that century. Prominent among these heralds of the King were Asa Shinn, Joseph Hall, James Watts, John Elliott, Samuel Adams and John Summerville. James Cannon figured prominently among the laity here. He came to Big Sandy about 1812, some claim about 1802. It was in his log cabin that the Rev. Ira Eddy organized the first class in 1817. For over ten years services had been held in the cabins of the settlers. They felt the need of a church. The matter was discussed in 1825 and decided upon in the following year. James Cannon gave the lot and also the lumber for the building. Robert Temple prepared the lumber at his mill and Aaron McKissick, a ship carpenter from Maine, was chief workman and supervisor of the work. The church was built in 1827. It was the one frame building in the community and quite pretentious in size, all the other buildings being small log structures. It is said that the voice of the early pioneer in prayer and song could be heard distinctly on the hills two miles away. They sang, "making melody in their hearts to God" and melody also through the corridors of the forest, reverberating from the rocks to the cliffs. This church was in use for thirty years, people from a radius of ten miles attending it, except the Methodists of Franklin, who were devoted to their own House of God. Other churches in

the neighborhood depleted the congregation, and in 1860 a committee was appointed to sell the "Old Sandy Church." It went to some favored buyer for \$28.12½, and the committee took a note for the whole amount. That does not seem like good business, but men often transact the church's business as they would not dream of transacting their own.

In the meantime services had been started in the farmhouse of Jonah Reynolds about ten miles west of Franklin, the one brick house in these parts in 1834. The family used to come to Sandy. Services were also held in the cabin of a tenant farmer near the great house at an even earlier date, namely in 1825. In 1840 a class was formed. Jonah Reynolds, John Stone, Samuel Shannon, Nicholas Wagner, and their families, and others, became members of this congregation. The class decided to erect a church, and in 1845 built a log structure on land given by Hiram Reynolds about a half mile distant from the Reynolds homestead. He also gave the land for a cemetery. In 1865 the log church was displaced by a frame structure, and this church was remodeled within recent years and is still in use.

It is not known exactly when the Methodist messenger of the Lord carried the good tidings into the Bully Hill region. Residents of the Hill very likely attended services in Franklin; some certainly attended at Sandy. James Foster, a worthy Methodist son of a worthy Methodist father, John Foster, was converted at a meeting in the Sandy Church in 1827. The first organization of a class on the Hill was effected in 1843. In 1847 another class was formed at the Foster schoolhouse, the scene of many great revivals. In 1847 a wonderful revival took place there and many entered the membership of the church. Among these new accessions there appear prominently the names of Ross Foster, Steven D. Smith, Robert Graham, Philander Brown, James Brown, and their families. John Abbott, a noted preacher of that day, figured largely in the above revival, and during the winter of 1852-53 another great awakening took place under the inspiration of Ahab Kellar. This revival won many young people and John Foster was appointed their leader. Men and women were deeply in earnest in those days. They came on foot many miles, after a week's hard toil, to attend the simplest services in the most barren buildings, even without the attraction of the sermon. They came from distances of many miles just

to attend a class or prayer meeting. The church was built here in 1863.

*The Church at Lyons.*—A great work was achieved by the Rev. J. R. Lock, pastor in Franklin, at the Lyons schoolhouse. He began his ministrations there in 1842. A class was formed consisting of Essington Kephart, Robert Seaton, Samuel Nickerson, David Vincent, David Nickerson and Samuel Lyons and their families. This station became known as "Lyons," and was supplied for many years from Franklin. Its little log church was hidden in the woods some distance from the road, but the faithful knew how to find this sylvan shrine. John Paden and John Cummings and Mrs. John Runninger figured prominently among its members. In 1851 Lyons was made part of the Hendersonville Circuit, and Edwin Hull became the pastor and J. G. Thompson the junior preacher. About this time, 1852, the preachers changed the services to the Gould schoolhouse, two miles distant. It proved a hardship to the older people of the church, so they secured the use of the new schoolhouse on the Lyons farm, known as the Nicklin schoolhouse, and invited the Rev. W. F. Day, the pastor in Franklin, to be their preacher and pastor. A class was formally organized and Robert Seaton was appointed the leader. After one of their successful revival meetings there occurred this tragic incident: Rev. Parker Dodd, of Franklin, brother of Hon. S. C. T. Dodd, of New York City, formerly a Franklin boy, came out and preached in the Nicklin schoolhouse. On returning home, in company with Elizabeth Selders and Mary Ann Stocker, he was accompanied by William Sandford, who had volunteered to take them across French creek at the Echols farm. They had to cross in a boat. Two young men or boys assisted in the rowing. Through indiscretion or lack of care on the part of the boys, the boat capsized, and Rev. Mr. Dodd and Misses Selders and Stocker were drowned. Mr. Sanders and the boys reaching the bank in safety with great difficulty. This cast a great gloom over the "Lyons" or Nicklin Church. But, although the workers pass, the work of God must go on.

The need of a church edifice had been keenly felt for years; so David Nicklin offered a half acre of land. Kind friends in Franklin contributed five hundred dollars, and the congregation subscribed one thousand, and on Dec. 10, 1860, the church was completed, furnished ready for service, but not for dedication. There was a debt of some hundred dollars.

The Rev. G. W. Maltby preached the sermon at the opening of the church. In thirty minutes afterward the amount was subscribed and the church was dedicated. The cherished project of a generation had become an accomplished fact, and it has been a source of blessing to God's children for nearly two generations.

### *Utica*

The beginnings of Methodism in Utica are hidden in obscurity. Dr. Fradenburgh has told us that "It is known that Methodist itinerants visited the French creek settlements long before the town was founded, but it was not until some time in the thirties that an attempt was made to effect a permanent organization." An old resident of the borough some years since, in answer to inquiries, said that the first class in Utica was formed during the ministry of John Van Horn, of Meadville. He states that there were about sixteen members enrolled at the first meeting, among whom he remembers the following: Jacob Whitman and wife, Thomas Johnson, John Martin, William Hays and wife, John Duffield and wife, Philip Duffield and wife and Samuel Jackson and wife. The class was attached to Lebanon Circuit, but later was connected with the Cooperstown Circuit. The district schoolhouse was used as a place of worship, but upon the erection of the Utica Academy a room in that building was fitted up for church purposes. In 1862 a small but neat frame building was erected near the central part of the borough, and during all these years it has served as a place of worship.

### *Salem Church*

In the early fifties a class was organized at the Lee schoolhouse near the pike, a mile from Oil City. The congregation was gathered by Rev. Richard Caruthers and became known as the Salem Church. The class had in it, among others, Mrs. James Lee, Mrs. Harriet Lake, the Misses Mary and Jane Long and James Shaffer. After the place of worship was removed to Salem John Crum and James Shields were the regular preachers. It is difficult to ascertain whether these workers in the Lord's vineyard should be dignified with the title of "Reverend," or whether they were only class leaders or local preachers, but they were certainly reverent, God-fearing, God-loving, disciples of the Master. Subsequently Frederick Vernon and E. H. Yingling served the congrega-

tions as preachers. For some time the old log church was shared with the Cumberland Presbyterians, so, for a time, the Arminian and the Calvinist dwelt together in unity. After some years the Presbyterians built a church of their own, and a little later, in 1866, the Methodists did likewise, in 1882 adding a parsonage. The present Salem church was built in 1897 under the pastoral supervision of the Rev. Thomas Pollard.

### *Salina*

At this time also, namely in the early fifties, the first class was organized at Salina by the Rev. Mr. Doolittle, who was much better than his name. The congregation was formed on the Hitchcock homestead and consisted of the Hitchcock family and Isaac and John Steffee. They met regularly in the Allison schoolhouse. The present church was built in 1885 under the pastorate of Abraham Bashline. The Rev. John McLean was in charge of the Salem Circuit. He refers to the rivalries growing out of the "unhappy divisions" of Christians, and declaims against the disturbers of the peace of Zion. He says: "We are spread over a section of country through which other would-be revivalists run to and fro, assuming the distinctive doctrines of Methodism, and adopting our measures, and singing the charming song of 'union, union'; and almost threaten us with the 'curse of Meroz' if we decline to engage in their meetings with them. Thus a few of our members, whose prayers and faith are available in behalf of the penitent, join in and help till the special effort is over, and a few are converted. Then the song of 'union' ceases; and these busybodies who have a 'party' interest to build up, beset the penitent inquirer and young convert with all manner of misrepresentations, and false accusations of Methodism and Methodist ministers, and give them no rest till they are induced to follow them down into 'Jordan, even though her banks be frozen fast with ice'; and then they triumph over their success. Mr. Editor, I am fond of 'Evangelical Alliance': but such 'union' as the above deserves the execration of every sensible and good man."

### *Victory Church*

For some years prior to 1858 the Rev. Frederick Vernon preached in the schoolhouses in the vicinity of Victory. In 1858 he organized the class which constituted the Victory Church. The following were included in the first class: Simon Nicklin, Jacob Wilt, Joseph K. Dale,

James McCutcheon, Samuel Hughes, James P. Morrison, Charles Ridgway, and their wives, and Miss Mary Hughes. The congregation prospered and erected a church edifice. It was finished in 1870. The Rev. Prof. L. G. Marvin of Allegheny College was requested to dedicate it. A dedication service was then, as it is too often even now, a combination of a scheme for raising funds and a dedicatory ceremony, the former often outweighing the latter in impressiveness and importance. The church at Victory presented a notable and laudable exception. When the committee proudly informed Professor Marvin that there was no debt upon the new church, he exclaimed: "I thank God, I have been asked to dedicate one church without asking for money."

### *Oil City*

In the early fifties also Methodism took tangible form in Oil City, although itinerant preachers officiated in the vicinity as early as 1831. The work here became known in 1841 as the Oil Creek Mission. About 1850 the Rev. Samuel Greggs preached at the present site of Oil City to "one man and forty women, all the other men in the place being at work in an iron furnace." In 1851 the Rev. A. S. Dobbs had an appointment at the Brown schoolhouse, a short distance from the mouth of Oil creek. He preached at the house of a Mrs. Halliday. He also crossed to the "South Side," and preached there to a congregation consisting of three women, two little girls, and a little boy. That certainly was the day of small things; but now certainly "the little one has become a thousand." A class was formally organized in 1860 by Mr. Dobbs, and as he was an itinerant preacher, the Rev. Jonathan Whitely, the pastor at Franklin, took charge of this first congregation at Oil City. He extended his labors to Petroleum Center and the surrounding territory, notably on the "Blood Farm" and the "Tarr Farm," where classes were organized. He also organized a class and Sunday school at the McElhaney Farm. The first church edifice was a frame structure and was secured in 1862. It was formerly the banking office of E. V. Culver. It was removed from Main street and established on "the flats" on the present site of the National Transit Company's shops. The pews in this first Oil City church consisted of rough boards laid on trestles. The boards were usually soaked with oil, and were covered with newspapers to save the ladies' dresses from oil stains. However, the historian tells us that the

congregations were large, earnest, and generous. The Oil City congregation became a regular charge in 1862 under the Rev. Milton Smith, the Rev. J. W. Lowe being the presiding elder. During the pastorate of Mr. Smith a church was erected at Center, Sycamore, and Spring streets. It had no tower. The bell was hung in a derrick which was generally known as the "Holy Derrick." The church was formally dedicated in 1863 as Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church. The first official board consisted of L. M. Gordon, C. F. Hasson, W. D. Riddle, H. C. Sheriff, J. W. Blaisdell, J. L. Mechlin, Joseph Hooten, F. Coast, J. Camp, William Kramer, Robert Alcorn, J. Campbell and Isaac B. Jacobs. At the time of the great fire in 1866 the church fell a prey to the flames. In the following year, 1867, the board secured the abandoned Presbyterian church at Pithole and removed it to the site of the former church. It served the congregation for nearly ten years. The present Trinity Church was erected in 1876, and the new edifice was dedicated with impressive exercises by Bishop Foster on June 17, 1877. Coincident with the services which resulted in the formation of the congregation of Trinity Church the Rev. John McComb and the Rev. J. M. Groves held service in the schoolhouse on the hill, which was then known as Venango City. They officiated here in 1862, and out of their ministrations there grew Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. J. W. Weldon succeeded them in 1864. In 1865 the congregation was fully organized under the new pastor, the Rev. N. C. Brown and the Rev. L. G. Merrill. Several classes were united for a time under the name of the Venango City charge, but the union proved unsatisfactory, and in 1868 Venango City and Reno were made a separate charge under the Rev. R. F. Keeler. In Oil City the Rev. Mr. Weldon preached, as a rule, in the houses of the members of his congregation. The first edifice of Grace Church was erected on East Third street in 1869 under the pastorate of the Rev. R. D. Waltz, and the church was dedicated in 1870 by the Rev. Dr. I. C. Pershing. The honor of freeing the church from debt belongs to the Rev. M. Miller. This he achieved thirteen years after its dedication. The new church, an exceptionally imposing structure at the corner of Central avenue and First street, was erected in 1894, and dedicated in 1895 by the Rev. B. I. Ives, D. D. The building committee consisted of Messrs. A. P. Dale, George Steffee, Maj. J. B. Maitland, F. S. Richards, S. L. Cribbs and H. H. Fair.

The Methodists of Oil City may well feel

proud of the extension of Methodism, its organization and buildings, and its progress and prosperity.

A class was organized at *Reno* in the autumn of 1867, and this class was attached, as noted above, to Venango City. The congregation consisted of the following: S. A. Darnell, Angeline J. Darnell, Emily Daniels, Martha C. Simons, Isabella Hoffman, Albert Simpson, and Martha O. Simpson. Throughout the oil country the population fluctuated greatly. The congregation was soon reduced to three members by removals. The services were held in the office of the Reno Oil Company. Very notable revivals were held here in 1872 by the Rev. J. H. Vance, in 1876 by the Rev. J. M. Thoburn, and in 1880 by the Rev. J. M. Miller.

The church of Galloway was organized through the efforts of the Rev. J. M. DeWoody in 1875. It consisted at the outset of sixty-eight members. The leading laymen of the congregation were the following: Thomas Fee, Silas Smith, William Reading, James R. Neely, Nelson C. Smith and Amos Dunbar. The church building at Galloway was the abandoned church of Petroleum Center. It was moved here in 1881, and after the necessary repairs was dedicated to the service of God.

#### *Emlenton*

The first meeting of the Methodists for services in Emlenton was held in the Town Hall or schoolhouse. It was built by general subscription, and it was generally understood to be for the use of all, irrespective of their denominational affiliations. But the Methodist brethren met with much opposition and had to "contend earnestly for the faith" and a place to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. Their first minister, probably a local preacher, was the Rev. Robert Beatty. The congregation was organized in 1860. The first class was composed of Mrs. James Bennett, Mrs. J. C. Boyce, William Hunter and wife, Mrs. John Hunter, Armstrong Hunter, Mrs. Peter King, Joseph G. Smith and wife, Joseph Sloan and wife, and Mr. Donaldson. The present church edifice on the corner of Fourth and Hill streets was erected in 1872. During this year the Rev. Mr. Fay became the resident pastor, having charge also of the congregations at Foxburg, Big Bend and Register. The Emlenton Church has also had the following pastors: The Revs. Messrs. G. W. Moore, H.

G. Hall, P. J. Slattery, William Branfield and O. M. McIntyre.

It is a pleasure to close this account of the Methodist Church in Venango county with the words of a pastor at Reno, feeling confident that his words apply also to other Methodist congregations: "Reno is noted throughout the Conference for the ardent interest she feels in, and the handsome contribution she makes to, the missionary work. Her contributions toward this benevolence ever have been, and still are, greater per member than any charge in the Conference."

#### THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The beginnings of local institutions are often hidden in obscurity. It is possible that the services of the Episcopal Church may have been held in the county of Venango, from time to time, by clergymen of missionary zeal, before the year 1825, but there is no record extant. Although the services of the Church of England were held on our western coast as early as the sixteenth century, and were permanently established at Jamestown in 1607, and congregations were formed in all the settlements along our Atlantic seaboard, the Episcopal Church did not venture beyond Pittsburgh into what was even then called "the wilds of western Pennsylvania" until 1815. For nearly two centuries the Episcopal Church in this country was under the handicap of being without Episcopal leadership. Immediately after the American Revolution the Episcopal Church, then commonly known as "The English Church," was established as an independent American Church. Her members had been most loyal to the cause of the American Colonies and at greater cost than any of the other colonists. But many in the newly established Republic looked at her askance, if not with well-defined suspicion. They had heard so often the religio-political cry "A Church without a Bishop and a State without a King," that they had come to believe that autocracy and Episcopacy were inseparably connected, and that neither could possibly find a place in the political or ecclesiastical Utopia of their dreams. The atmosphere inland was not congenial amid Scotch, Irish and German pioneers, and this, with the lack of requisite missionary zeal, and the difficulties of reaching the western part of the State, induced the early fathers of the Episcopal Church to abide in the breaches along the seashore. At last the Rev.

John Henry Hopkins ventured from Pittsburgh to Meadville and from thence missionaries came to Venango county.

### *Saint John's Church, Franklin*

At Franklin a parish was organized under the title of "Saint John's Church." Frederick Carey, Alexander McCalmont, John Evans, Samuel Bailey, George Power, James Kinnear, George Brigham, William Raymond, John Little, David Irwin, James Perkins, John Galbreath and others applied for a charter on March 16, 1826, and the charter was granted on the 22d day of May, 1826. The following year the parish commenced the erection of a small brick church on a lot given for the purpose by Mrs. Sarah McDowell. But the churchmen of the Franklin of that day, as others in western Pennsylvania, did not exemplify very well the perseverance of the saints. After the walls of the church were up and the roof was on, their funds and their hearts failed them, and the building, without floor, doors, and windows, was abandoned, and became a refuge for fowls of the air and beasts of the field. A resident clergyman, or the continuance of the Rev. Mr. Smith at Meadville, could have saved the situation; but the rector of Christ Church resigned in 1831, and the "parts adjacent" to Meadville suffered greatly.

In 1834, St. John's Church, Franklin, entered into an agreement with some Cumberland Presbyterians. These Presbyterians were desirous of organizing a society in Franklin, but having no suitable building for their meetings they appealed to the vestry of St. John's Church. The Presbyterians were granted the use of the unfinished, abandoned, and neglected St. John's for six years, on the condition that they should finish the building. The records say that "the Episcopalians joined with them in the work and furnished most of the means." However, the effort of the Cumberland Presbyterians, though at first successful, in a few years came to naught, and St. John's Church, although materially improved, was, as before the spasmodic Presbyterian effort, still silent, spiritually inert, and remained so for some years. In 1862 the Board of Missions reported to the Convention that it had appointed the Rev. Henry Purdon to take charge of the Mission at Franklin, Venango county, and had instructed him to extend his labors to Titusville, to Oil City, to other points on the Allegheny river, and in the "Oil Regions." The Board

expresses great pleasure in being "able to revive and re-establish the decayed parish at Franklin, which had had a place in the Journals of the Diocesan Convention since 1826." The prospects of a living, growing, working parish at Franklin now grew very bright. Through the hard work of two devoted churchwomen, Mrs. Ruth Elliott and Mrs. Agnes Mason, the church was restored. The Rev. Mr. Purdon labored here and at the other stations in his care most faithfully and successfully. However, in the following year, in 1863, he resigned St. John's, Franklin, and gave himself entirely to the work at Titusville and the surrounding territory. He was succeeded at Franklin by the Rev. John W. Tays, who was sent out by the Board of Missions. He successfully continued his labors here and in Oil City and at Reno, until 1865, when St. John's, Franklin, declared itself self-supporting, was admitted into union with the Convention, and entered upon a career of prosperity and beneficence.

The Rev. S. T. Lord of Meadville officiated at St. John's Church until the newly elected rector, the Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, took charge of the parish on the last Sunday in November, 1865. In 1866 the small brick building was found too small for the growing congregation and the vestry resolved to erect a new church. The removal of the old church was begun in April, and on Aug. 13th the cornerstone of the new church was laid by the Rt. Rev. John B. Kerfoot, D. D., the Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Addresses were made by the Bishop, the Rev. Mr. Byllesby of Meadville, and the Rev. Mr. Nevius of Alabama. There was a large audience in attendance. Some of the neighboring clergy were present at this interesting function, among them the Revs. Messrs. Lord of Meadville, Porter of Warren, White of Butler, Washburn of Cleveland, Page of Buffalo, Hayward of Sharon, and the rector, the Rev. Marcus A. Tolman. During the erection of the church the congregation held its services in the courthouse. On Easter Day, 1867, the new church was opened for public worship, and on Friday in Easter Week a formal opening service was held by the Bishop of the Diocese, at which twenty persons were confirmed. Some of the neighboring clergy attended this opening service. In 1869 the pews of St. John's Church were declared free to all. The rector then, in the early seventies, extended his ministrations to the Third ward and the First ward of the city, both in services and Sunday schools. The

school in the Third ward was placed in charge of Mr. James M. Bredin, and that in the First ward in charge of Mrs. David D. Grant.

In 1874 the Rev. Mr. Tolman resigned the rectorship of St. John's to assume the rectorship of St. Mark's Church, Mauch Chunk. He was succeeded by the Rev. A. B. Putnam, who administered the affairs of the parish until May, 1879. Upon his resignation the vestry elected the Rev. Harry Leigh Yewens to the rectorship. He assumed his duties on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 1879, and was instituted on April 19, 1880, by Bishop Kerfoot, the other clergy present being the Rev. G. A. Carstensen, of Meadville, and the Rev. P. B. Lightner, of Oil City. During his long rectorship, during which he maintained daily services and most faithful pastoral ministrations, a lot was acquired for a rectory in 1882, the church indebtedness was paid in 1883, and the church was consecrated on St. John's Day by the Rt. Rev. Cortlandt Whitehead, D. D. Many of the clergy of the Diocese attended the consecration service. In 1887 Mr. W. J. Mullins presented a handsome brass altar cross in memory of his mother, Lucy A. Mullins. In 1890 the Woman's Auxiliary was re-organized and entered upon a vigorous career. On Christmas Day, 1890, Mrs. Sarah Frances McCalmont presented a silver communion service in memory of her husband and her daughter, Gen. Alfred B. McCalmont and Lydia (McCalmont) McGough. In 1892 ground was broken for a rectory. Mrs. Arnold A. Plumer, Mrs. J. D. Hancock, Mrs. Mary Snowden and Mrs. J. W. Grant were appointed a committee on the new rectory. The following represented the men of the congregation on the rectory committee: Messrs. Thomas Algeo, Clarke Hayes and John K. Bryden. It was completed in April, 1893, and opened with a service of benediction before its occupancy by the rector and his family. On Jan. 27, 1895, the Rev. Harry L. Yewens died after a brief illness, a faithful priest of God, entering into his rest in the midst of his labors, with the words of the Eucharistic service upon his lips. He was succeeded by the Rev. Arthur H. Judge, who entered upon his duties on May 12, 1895. During his rectorship some handsome memorial gifts were presented to the church, the vested choir of men and boys was introduced, and a well appointed Parish House was added to the equipment of the parish. The cornerstone of the Parish House was laid by Bishop Whitehead on July 28, 1898, in the presence of a large concourse of people. Addresses were made by the Bishop and the Rev. Mr. Judge, the music being ren-

dered by the vested choir. The Parish House was opened with a service of benediction by the Bishop of the Diocese on April 22, 1899, and the formal opening of the House took place on May 2d, with addresses by the ministers of the city. On Feb. 24, 1900, a fire in the organ chamber, caused by the carelessness of organ men, destroyed both the church and Parish House within an hour. The Parish House was restored at once and the congregation, which had been compelled to resort to the courthouse for the church services, began to hold services there on June 17th.

The Rev. Arthur H. Judge resigned the rectorship, his resignation taking effect on Aug. 1, 1900. On this day the Rev. Martin Aigner was elected to the rectorship of St. John's, and he assumed his duties Sept. 24, 1900. His rectorship is, so far, the longest in the history of the parish. It has witnessed great changes in the parish and community. When he came to the parish the contract for the new St. John's had just been given. It was his privilege to see the new St. John's rise from its foundation to completion. The church was opened for service on Easter Day, 1901, although not quite completed. St. John's Church is generally regarded as one of the handsomest churches in western Pennsylvania, and it is exceptionally rich in memorials of great artistic value. The indebtedness on the church was paid on Dec. 26, 1904, and the new St. John's was consecrated by Bishop Whitehead on St. John's Day, 1904. It was a most impressive service, largely attended. St. John's Church is open daily from sunrise to sunset, there is a daily service, and the Holy Communion is celebrated every Lord's Day. The rector has extended his ministrations regularly to the Institution at Polk, to the Franklin City Hospital, and to the County Jail. The congregation of St. John's has given generously of its means to local and general charities, and to the Church's missionary work at home and abroad.

#### *Christ Church, Oil City*

During the year 1861 the services of the church were held occasionally in Oil City by the Rev. John W. Tays of Franklin. On Sunday, June 8, 1862, the Rev. Henry Purdon, the rector of St. John's, Franklin, held service in Oil City, and afterward from time to time. During December, 1865, the Rev. Marcus Alden Tolman officiated at Oil City, and in January, 1866, he began to hold services at regular intervals. The Presbyterians very kindly granted the use of their edifice. After

a service held there on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1866, the congregation assembled, numbering about fifty, and took steps to organize a parish. The Rev. Marcus A. Tolman acted as chairman, and Mr. George A. Shepherd acted as secretary. The congregation elected vestrymen, wardens were chosen, and the organization assumed the name of Christ Church. The rector of St. John's Church, Franklin, ministered most acceptably to the congregation for some months, but it was found necessary to have a clergyman who could give his entire time to Oil City. In August, 1866, a call was extended to the Rev. R. D. Nevius, of Mobile, Ala. He accepted this call, and became the first rector of Christ Church. It became at once a "free church," i. e., a church without pew rents. The parish was admitted into union with the Diocese of Pittsburgh at the Diocesan Convention held in Erie on May 21, 1867. At this time, and for some years, the services were held in Bascom's Hall, and later in Excelsior Hall, which stood on the site of the present Chambers building on Center street. In January, 1870, a lot was purchased on First street, near State street. In the month of March the congregation decided to build a church, a building committee was appointed, and plans were adopted for a suitable building. It was a substantial wooden structure, consecrated on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1871, by Bishop Kerfoot.

The parish must have informally adopted the pew renting system sometime after the erection of the church, because in April, 1878, it is recorded that the vestry declared the seats "absolutely free." The parish continued to prosper. In 1881 a lot was purchased for a rectory. The rectory was finished and occupied on April 10, 1882.

In December, 1882, the Rev. J. H. B. Brooks was called to the rectorship of Christ Church. He entered upon his duties on Jan. 1, 1883. It is said that he assumed charge of the parish with the distinct understanding that he would give himself wholly to the spiritual affairs of the parish, and that he would leave the financial affairs to the care of the vestry. This he did with unfailing consistency and devoted zeal. He was a most devoted pastor. No distance was too great, and no weather conditions too severe for him to brave, in order to minister to the spiritual or physical needs of his parishioners, or to anyone who appealed to him for aid.

In February, 1884, the question of a new church edifice was presented to the congregation. The need of the new building was so

keenly felt that the project was kept before the congregation constantly. The new church project took formal shape in 1886, and on July 12th of that year the cornerstone of the present church was laid. It was opened for service on Easter Day, April 10, 1887, with a service of benediction conducted by Bishop Whitehead. About this time the pew rental system was again adopted. The offerings of the people for the building project must have diminished their offerings for church support. The church was consecrated on May 12, 1894, by Bishop Whitehead, with an impressive service and a large congregation.

After the death of the Rev. J. H. B. Brooks in 1902 the Rev. Charles H. Stocking, D. D., was *locum tenens* for some months. In 1903 the Rev. John Dows Hills, M. A., became the rector. During his rectorship the exceptionally well adapted Parish House was erected. This has been a valuable adjunct to the parish and a great convenience to various organizations in Oil City. The Rev. John Dows Hills, D. D., resigned in 1909 and became the rector of the Church of the Epiphany, Bellevue, Pa. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Edward Reilly, D. D., who now administers wisely and well the affairs of Christ Church. The indebtedness upon the rectory has been paid and the interior of the church has been greatly improved and beautified. Under his wise administration, and with the hearty co-operation of a very able and efficient vestry, the parish has during the last eight years increased greatly in numbers, power and influence. The Rector of Christ Church has assumed the care of Christ Church, Tidioute.

#### THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

There were only a few Lutherans among the early settlers of Venango county, but occasionally missionaries of the Lutheran Church visited the scattered disciples of Martin Luther.

#### *Dempseytown*

It would seem that the first Lutheran Church established in the county was that at Dempseytown. It was organized by the Rev. H. Weicksel, a missionary of the Pittsburgh Synod, as the *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, sometimes between 1840 and 1850. Among the members of this Lutheran pioneer organization there were the following: Jacob Baum, Samuel Frankenburger, John Frankenburger, Mrs. Susan Homan, John Bannechoff,

John Kinch, and the Meals, Ulrich and Phillips families. The first church, a simple frame structure, was erected on the Titusville road near Dempseytown, but later a larger and more attractive building was erected in the village proper. At first the congregation was connected with the mission at New Lebanon, but later the pastors of Franklin held services at Dempseytown.

### *Franklin*

#### *Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*

In one of his missionary tours the Rev. H. Weicksel visited Franklin, in July, 1851. His preaching resulted in the organization of a congregation, which was formally effected on Oct. 25, 1851, under the title of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. A lot for church purposes was secured at once. The erection of the church was begun in the following year, 1852, and the church was formally dedicated on Dec. 8, 1861. The Revs. Messrs. J. Brenneman and S. M. Kuhns officiated at the dedication. It embraced twenty members, namely: Martin and Fredrika Stiefel, Christopher and Margaret Heilman, Peter Hardman, John and Margaret Grieshaber, Dorothea Kunkle, Michael and Mary Heinrich, Isaac and Elizabeth Bechtel, Jacob Siefer, John Borger, John and Susanna Young, George and Anna Keiser, George and Margaret West. The earliest record of officers extant dates back to 1861, when the following constituted the Church Council or Kirchenrath: Conrad Reiss, Jacob Hallstein, Michael Dremmel, and Jacob Schneider. The Rev. Mr. Weicksel celebrated the Holy Communion here for the first time on Dec. 21, 1851. He continued his services here for some years, but they were conducted at irregular intervals. Such irregularity does not make for progress, so the services were discontinued. The services were resumed by the Rev. Mr. Nunner in 1859. He was succeeded by the Rev. J. Brenneman in 1864. In 1866 the Rev. W. F. Ulery acted as a regular supply. The Rev. J. M. Lange took charge in 1868, and on June 16th of that year the congregation was reorganized. Jacob Hallstein presided at this meeting and James McElhaney was the deacon. The Rev. S. W. Kuhns became the pastor in 1875. He was succeeded by the Rev. F. W. Kohler in 1881, and the Rev. H. J. G. Bartholomew became the pastor on Dec. 16, 1884. The congregation was growing steadily. In 1885, a fund for a parsonage having been accumulated, it was deemed wise to seek for a

new and larger site. A lot was purchased at the corner of Eleventh and Buffalo streets. On this the new church edifice was erected, the Rev. J. A. Kunkleman, D. D., laying the cornerstone on July 25, 1886. It is the present church, an attractive structure of Queen Anne cottage style, with a tower surmounted with a cross. A parsonage adjoins the church. At first the congregation received aid from the Mission Board of the Synod. It has been for at least twenty-five years a self-sustaining parish. The Rev. H. J. H. Lemcke was one of the devoted pastors of Grace Church during this later period. The present pastor is the Rev. G. W. DeA. Hudson, a gentle, scholarly, and devoted pastor, who lives only for his parish and his people, highly esteemed by all who know him and sincerely loved by those who know him best.

### *Oil City*

#### *Good Hope Church*

In 1870 the German Lutherans of Oil City secured the Rev. L. Vogelsang, of Bradys Bend, Pa., to hold services occasionally in the Third ward schoolhouse. About the same time the Rev. J. M. Lange, of Franklin, held services in the Evangelical Church on First street. On July 30, 1871, a congregation was organized as the Good Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church with the following official board: George Walter, president; S. Kauffmann, secretary; Louis Roess, treasurer; and Messrs. Schmid, Burkle, Paul and Kistler. A lot was purchased on First street and the congregation at once proceeded to build, and the new church was dedicated on Aug. 20, 1871. The Rev. L. Vogelsang was formally installed as pastor on Oct. 8, 1871, and on Oct. 19th of the same year twenty-five members signed the constitution and the congregation was incorporated Oct. 21, 1872. He remained as the pastor of Good Hope Church nearly seventeen years and resigned only because of his failing health. He established a Parish school, gathered a large Sunday school, and was a devoted pastor. The growth of the congregation was slow, but substantial and permanent. The Rev. H. J. Reimann succeeded him on April 12, 1888. The needs of the younger generation now made the introduction of an English service imperative. Under the new pastor the evening service was rendered in the English language, and the congregation grew rapidly. From time to time various improvements have been made. The congregation continued for years to be made

up largely of those of German extraction, although now the German element is confined largely to German-Americans.

In 1902 the congregation determined to erect a new church. The work was begun in 1902 under the supervision of the Rev. H. J. Reimann and completed in 1903. The new church is a fine brownstone structure. The Rev. Adolph Ebert became the pastor in 1912. He has continued the excellent work of his predecessors. The Good Hope Church is affiliated with the Missouri Synodical Conference.

#### *Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church*

In 1897 some of the members of the Good Hope Church withdrew and formed a new congregation, under the title of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation seems to have been formed without direct clerical leadership. The first pastor of the newly formed congregation was the Rev. Mr. Steub. He remained several years, and was succeeded by the Rev. E. Mueller, whose pastorate extended over three years. The present pastor is the Rev. E. H. Wishmeyer. He assumed the pastorate on Dec. 1, 1912. Christ Church is a member of the Ohio Synodical Conference. The present incumbent exemplifies well the patience and perseverance of the devoted Christian pastor, and he has the hearty co-operation of some very faithful Lutherans.

#### *Emlenton*

The Lutherans of Emlenton held their first services, as did their Christian brethren when they were permitted to do so, in the Town Hall. In 1860 they organized a congregation and joined with the Reformed congregation in erecting a brick church on Main street. This was occupied jointly until 1884. The combination was not entirely satisfactory. On Jan. 7, 1884, the Lutherans decided to withdraw and to dispose of their interest in the building. They did so on June 30, 1884. Early in 1885 they erected a church of their own, dedicated on Jan. 3, 1886, by the Rev. W. A. Passavant, D. D., of Pittsburgh. It is a very attractive building. The Rev. J. B. Fox, under whose ministry the re-organization was effected, continued as pastor until 1888. He was succeeded in 1889 by the Rev. W. F. Bacher, whose excellent work deserves mention. Among the prominent and official laymen of the church are the following: Messrs. J. H. Kuhns, Thomas Taylor, H. L. Gearing and William Stubble.

#### THE BAPTIST CHURCH

##### *Franklin*

During the winter of 1866-67 regular services were begun by the Baptists residing in Franklin. The services were conducted in Hanna's Hall, on Thirteenth street, by the Rev. Samuel S. Williams. A few months later, in the spring of 1867, permission was obtained to secure the old courtroom for the Sunday services, and the services were conducted there for a period of nearly two years, while weekly prayer meetings were held at the various residences of the faithful brethren. By June of 1867, when the congregation had materially increased and the small but enthusiastic number of Baptists had been drawn together with but one purpose in common, "prompted by the spirit of God, and with firm reliance on the promises of God," they determined to organize themselves into a church. A resolution was adopted to that effect, and invitations were sent out to the surrounding churches to convene in a council to assist in the formal organization. Soon after this decision the Rev. Dr. Williams, who had been preaching for the six months previous, was called to Ohio on matters of business, and resigned his charge as their preacher. A preliminary meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church, and after a sermon by Rev. Richard H. Austin, of Meadville, a business meeting to organize a church was called, Rev. R. H. Austin, acting as moderator, presiding. This meeting was attended by twenty-two members of the Baptist denomination. David W. Morgan was elected clerk of the assembly and a resolution was passed that the council be called to meet on July 30, 1867, and that letters of invitation be sent to the Baptist congregations of Corry, Sheakleyville, Oil City, Titusville, Meadville, and Mead's Corners to send delegates to this council. It was also resolved at this meeting that the church adopt the "New Hampshire Confession of Faith" as published in the Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, by Rev. J. Newton Brown, D. D. Messrs. Charles Miller and David W. Morgan were elected to act as representatives of the Baptist Church in the council called for July 30th. On the date set for the convening of this council a special meeting was held prior to its assembling, at which, on a motion, it was resolved that James Bryden and Charles Miller be elected deacons and that they be ordained as such at the meeting of the church in the evening. A list of the names of the members

composing the new organization and the church of which they were members was presented, as follows: James Bryden, Charles Miller, Adelaide Miller, D. W. Morgan, Margaret Morgan, John Davis, Byrom Moffett, Mary Marsh, Mary A. Hamilton, E. A. Pike, L. McGregor, H. S. Marchant, Rachel Palmer, Amelia Richardson, Hattie Richardson, S. H. Richardson, Frances Collyer, Fannie Reeves, Eliza Reeves, R. H. Bentley, Mary Elizabeth Moffett.

The council met in the United Presbyterian Church on Elk street in the afternoon with the following invited delegates present: Rev. R. H. Austin, of Meadville; Rev. Ross Ward, of Sheakleyville; Revs. Messrs. J. Hicks and Dewey, of Mead's Corners; Rev. A. D. Bush, of Corry, and Rev. W. W. Meech and Deacon I. D. Baldwin, of Oil City. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. R. H. Austin, who was then elected moderator, and Deacon Baldwin was elected clerk of the council. After some addresses had been made in which Christian advice and encouragement were given to the brethren by each member of the council, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, That we, the council called by the Baptist brethren of Franklin, Pa., declare them as being regularly organized, and do hereby recognize them as the First regular Baptist Church at Franklin, Pa." The council appointed a committee to arrange for a "Recognition Service." This service was held in the evening of that memorable day at 7:30 o'clock in the Presbyterian Church at the corner of Otter and South Park streets, the Revs. Messrs. Murch of Oil City, Waid of Sheakleyville, Hicks of Mead's Corners, Austin of Meadville, Bush of Corry and Eaton of Franklin taking part in the service. On Aug. 14th a call was extended to Rev. A. D. Bush, of Corry, to become pastor of the new Franklin Church organization, but he declined the call. At a special meeting on Sept. 23d a call was extended to Rev. John Owens, of Pittsburgh, to become pastor. He accepted the call, began his labors on Sept. 30th, and remained in the pastorate one year, resigning on Oct. 1, 1868. On Dec. 8, 1867, at a special meeting, a resolution was adopted providing that the first Sunday of each month shall be the appointed time for "the observance of the ordinance of Communion." It was at this same meeting that the first trustees of the church were elected, viz., Deacons James Bryden and Charles Miller and P. Haines. In February, 1869, arrangements were made with the Presbyterian Church to rent the old church building on Otter street

made vacant by their removal to their new edifice, the consideration of rental being one hundred and sixty dollars per annum, which included privilege of using the bell, chandeliers and stoves. During November, 1868, a call was extended to the Rev. R. H. Austin, who had often befriended the Franklin Baptists, but he declined. In January, 1869, the Rev. Thomas Sayre was called to the pastorate of the church. He accepted the call and remained somewhat over a year. During his pastorate the congregation purchased the Liberty street lot which is now the site of the Baptist Sunday school building. The real estate ventures necessitated some economies in the Baptist congregation, for in July of this year the following resolution was adopted: that "we do away with the service of janitors, and that the deacons be requested to see to the lighting and cleaning of the house, to be assisted by the members." Besides these economies the congregation entered heartily and successfully upon strawberry festivals and oyster suppers. The congregation was incorporated on Jan. 24, 1870. In May of this year the Rev. J. W. Taylor was called to the pastorate. His stay was brief; but during his short pastorate plans were adopted for a church edifice and the foundation wall was laid. He was succeeded in August, 1871, by Rev. J. W. Davis, who remained somewhat over a year. The chapel which was begun in his pastorate was completed in 1873 under the pastorate of Rev. A. C. Williams who, when he came, made stipulations for a larger salary, for its prompt payment, and for a vacation. The congregation rejoiced greatly in its new church. It seated one hundred and twenty-five persons and was used also for Sunday school purposes. In 1874 the Rev. R. H. Austin, who had become a member of the congregation, was induced to assume the pastorate. He inaugurated a revival and also led the congregation to build a larger church. In the course of the year a very handsome brick church was erected. It was dedicated on Nov. 27, 1874, the Rev. Dr. Evarts of Chicago preaching the sermon. A call was extended to the Rev. Frederick Evans, of New York, who accepted the call and was duly installed as pastor on Dec. 6, 1874. He was a man of unusual gifts and his pastorate of eleven years was greatly prospered and blessed.

At this time the Sunday school of the Baptist Church took a great forward stride. Deacon Charles Miller was elected as the superintendent. He organized a Bible class which has grown to be one of the largest classes in the State. The Rev. Frederick Evans resigned

in 1880, but the congregation refused to accept the resignation and instead granted the pastor a leave of absence for the recovery of his health. In the meantime the lot on the corner of Eleventh and Liberty streets was secured for a parsonage. The house was hastily completed in time for the pastor's return. The Rev. Mr. Evans continued his successful labors until 1885, and was then succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Rambaut, D. D. His pastorate was short but very able and efficient. During his incumbency a Baptist Mission was opened in the Third ward through the generous gifts of Messrs. Charles Miller and Joseph C. Sibley, and the Sunday school accommodations were greatly enlarged. The Rev. E. F. Crane was given charge of the Mission. In July, 1887, the Rev. Euclid B. Rogers was called to the pastorate. During his two years as pastor the church prospered greatly. It was found necessary to enlarge the church, and while the alterations were in progress the congregation held its services in the Opera House. The completed building was opened with an impressive service of dedication. On Nov. 29, 1889, the church extended a call to the Rev. Clarence A. Adams, D. D., who accepted it and began his ministry here on Jan. 1, 1890. His pastorate was greatly blessed, many were added to the church membership, and the congregation parted with him with great regret in 1895. On Easter Sunday, April 5, 1896, the Rev. T. Edwin Brown, D. D., assumed the pastorate. He was a man of scholarly attainments, gentle spirit, and exceptional pulpit ability. In 1898 the Mission Church in the Third ward was organized as the Second Baptist Church of Franklin, the Rev. Allen E. Nellis being called as pastor.

On July 5, 1900, steps were taken toward the erection of a new Sunday school building, Gen. Charles Miller providing the cost of its erection, an outlay of nearly sixty thousand dollars. While the fabric of this building was rising the church was destroyed by fire, during the winter of 1901. The Sunday school building was formally dedicated on Jan. 5, 1902. The services of the church were then held in the Miller Bible class room. The Rev. Dr. Brown resigned in 1902, and after an interregnum of nearly a year the Rev. M. P. Fikes, D. D., was called to succeed him. Dr. Fikes began his labors on Sept. 1, 1903. He combined in an unusual degree the powers of the preacher and organizer. He was well fitted for the work in hand, for the congregation had just decided to rebuild its ruined church. He gave himself wholly to the task. The new

church was completed in January, 1904, and was dedicated with elaborate exercises on Jan. 24th, all the clergy of the city participating in the services. Dr. Fikes resigned on July 1, 1908, and was succeeded by the Rev. A. Lincoln Moore, D. D., Nov. 21, 1908.

In December, 1909, the Second Baptist Church again became a part of the First Church organization, the Rev. D. H. Dennison being the assistant pastor, with special charge of the Second Church. Dr. Moore, like many of the Baptist pastors, had exceptional ability as preacher and lecturer, and was a man of broad outlook and wide sympathies. He did an excellent work here, resigning in December, 1913. On Sept. 2, 1913, the Baptist Church sustained a great loss in the death of a devoted member, Deacon David W. Morgan, who had served the church well from its organization nearly fifty years ago. Dr. Moore was succeeded by a former pastor, the Rev. Dr. Clarence A. Adams, on March 1, 1914. His being recalled to the pastorate is an eloquent testimonial to his ability and worth. Dr. Adams is now the pastor of the church.

#### *Oil City*

In November, 1863, a few devoted Baptists met in the Third ward to establish a Baptist Church. They were the Rev. Cyrus Shreve and two women whose names were not recorded. In June, 1864, a larger congregation met and decided upon the purchase of a small house and lot on Seneca street. At the close of that month, on the 26th, the Rev. J. L. Scott began regular preaching services, and on July 3, 1864, a Sunday school was opened under the leadership of Andrew Cone. Soon afterward an effort was made to formally organize a Baptist Church, but the clergyman's illness frustrated this laudable purpose for the time. However, in 1866, on March 1st, a few faithful Baptists met in Dr. Baldwin's office, and he and S. A. Boyer, Robert Lowrie, R. B. Fulton and Andrew Cone were chosen as trustees. The congregation was regularly organized on Feb. 11, 1867, with twenty-one members. Shadrach Couch was elected treasurer and Andrew Cone, clerk. J. D. Baldwin and Andrew Cone were ordained deacons. The Rev. W. W. Meech was called to the pastorate. On Aug. 15th the congregation was officially recognized as the First Baptist Church of Oil City by a council especially convened, and attended by delegates from Titusville, Cherrytree, Spartansburg, Franklin, Corry and Conneautville. On Sept. 6th the church was admitted to the

**Oil Creek Baptist Association**, then in session at Warren, Pennsylvania.

The church had now entered upon its organized life; but it was very weak. It could not adequately support its pastor. The Rev. Mr. Meech resigned on Nov. 25, 1867, and the services were conducted by occasional supplies. Its existence was maintained through the financial assistance of the State Association. However, a charter was granted on Nov. 30, 1867. In 1869 a brighter day dawned. The Rev. E. F. Crane was called to the pastorate and a lot was secured for a new church. Mr. Crane's health failing, the Rev. J. W. Spore was called, on May 8, 1870. He furthered the new church project. The contract was given on Dec. 2, 1870, and the church was completed in September, 1871, and dedicated on Oct. 15th. The Rev. William Young, D. D., then entered upon the pastorate. The church now entered upon an era of prosperity, temporal and spiritual. This was marred somewhat by the rapid changes in the pastors, the Revs. Messrs. J. D. Herr, Austin and Whitman, succeeding each other at short intervals. However, during the pastorate of Mr. Whitman the church succeeded in ridding itself of a large debt with the aid of the State Association and the generous benefaction of Samuel A. Crozier, at the close of 1878. In 1879 the Rev. C. T. Halowell became the pastor. He was succeeded by the Rev. C. T. Morgan, and in 1884 the Rev. Mr. Dillingham was called. The activities of the congregation were greatly stimulated during his pastorate. There were improvements in the material fabric of the church, and the congregation was organized for spiritual and practical work. In 1886 the Rev. J. D. Smith began his pastorate. He added greatly to congregational activities both in the matter of working and giving for the extension of the Master's Kingdom.

He attracted especially the younger people of the community. Great improvements were made in the interior of the church edifice, and the missionary interest and activities of the congregation were greatly stimulated. After three years of energetic and successful work Rev. Mr. Smith resigned, on Sept. 1, 1889. The Rev. E. I. McKeever, of Aberdeen, S. Dak., was called as pastor on Jan. 1, 1890. He was a man of scholarly attainments and great pastoral faithfulness. During his pastorate a parsonage was secured and the church was renovated and redecorated. He resigned after an incumbency of two years.

On Nov. 2, 1892, Rev. J. J. Parsons, of New

Bethlehem, became the pastor. He was a young man of exceptional talents, a fine reader, a musician with unusual vocal ability, and a natural orator. He drew many people to the Church through his evangelistic efforts and the social life of the congregation drew many people because of his ability to entertain. After a ministry of three and a half years Mr. Parsons resigned to accept a call to Jacksonville, Florida.

The Rev. J. S. Wrightnour, of Lincoln, Ill., became the pastor on Sept. 1, 1896. He was distinguished for his personal work, and devoted himself especially to the children and the youth of the community. During his pastorate there was a greater ingathering of people than ever before. Dr. Wrightnour resigned on Oct. 30, 1902, to become the pastor of a church at Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The Rev. J. R. Edwards was called to the pastorate on March 1, 1903. He was a man of distinguished ability and was noted for his devoted work among the poor of the city. He was a specialist in improved Sunday school methods. During his pastorate the graded system of instruction was introduced in the Sunday school of the church and the school was brought to the highest degree of efficiency in its entire history. He was also a great missionary, ardently advocated missionary work, and was able to call out the hearty co-operation of his people. He resigned on March 1, 1907, to accept a pastorate in Washington, D. C.

After an interregnum the Rev. J. E. Darby, D.D., of Waynesburg, Pa., was called and took up his work, April 1, 1908. During his pastorate a new church edifice was suggested, but no practical steps were taken toward its realization. Dr. Darby's preaching was very attractive and large congregations were drawn to the church. The church building was greatly improved and beautified and the congregation prospered greatly both spiritually and financially. Dr. Darby resigned on May 31, 1911, and was succeeded by the Rev. W. S. Dunlap, who assumed charge of the church on June 11, 1911. Mr. Dunlap endeared himself at once to the congregation. It is said that as a preacher he was without a peer in the city. Under his leadership an indebtedness of long standing was paid off, great improvements were made to the material fabric, and the missionary enterprises of the church were more firmly established. The new pastor also moved energetically in the matter of the proposed new church. In order to increase the evening congregations a moving picture machine

was installed, but this venture did not prove a success. Mr. Dunlap concluded his labors on Sept. 1, 1915, to accept a church in Washington, D. C.

The Rev. D. D. Forward, of Chicago, became pastor on Jan. 1, 1916. The new pastor was a man of broad outlook and wide sympathies and a devoted advocate of improvement in civic affairs and child welfare work. To further the new church project, and largely because of his leadership, the congregation purchased the building lot on West First street. A building fund was started and the congregation abandoned the old edifice and worshiped in Carnegie Hall awaiting the erection of the new church, but the disorganization occasioned by the war forced a change of plans. So the congregation has returned to the old building and decided to improve it and adapt it to present-day needs. The Rev. Mr. Forward resigned the pastorate on Jan. 13, 1918, and has since passed to his reward. At this writing the church is without a pastor.

#### FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OIL CITY

Toward the close of the year 1863 several adherents of the United Presbyterian Church appealed to the Lake Presbytery for the establishment of the services of that church in Oil City, M. J. Morrison and S. P. Morrison and their families, James G. and Jane Reed, Mrs. H. J. Cookston, Mrs. Nancy Zuver, and J. B. and Katy A. Blakely. At the direction of the Presbytery a meeting was called on Dec. 21, 1863, in the "Old Banking House." The Rev. J. R. Slentz, of Plumer, presided and organized the congregation with James G. Reed and M. J. Morrison as elders. On Feb. 1, 1864, Rev. John W. Pinkerton became the first stated supply. Services were held in the old hall on the site of the Morrison block on Center street. The congregation was composed of earnest and energetic people and made rapid strides under the leadership of Mr. Pinkerton, although he remained in charge only a little over a year. A church was erected at the corner of Pearl and Harriot avenues and opened for services in May, 1865. The lot was given by Messrs. Graff, Hasson & Co., and the special committee for the erection of the church consisted of Messrs. R. Sproul, S. P. Morrison, H. L. McCance, M. J. Morrison and J. G. Reed. Rev. D. Donnan preached the dedication sermon. The first regular pastor, Rev. Joseph McNab, was installed on Sept. 7, 1867. He was a most energetic pastor. The church was destroyed by fire early in 1873.

The congregation hastened to remove the ruins and to build anew, and on April 19, 1873, the session met in the basement of the new church. The building was much larger and more elaborate than the former church. The congregation encountered some difficulties in completing it. In fact the completion was delayed until 1877.

Rev. Joseph McNab resigned in 1874 and was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Bracken in July, 1874, and he was followed by Rev. J. W. Swaney on April 30, 1877. The church was completed and dedicated on Oct. 28, 1877, and the dedication ceremonies were conducted by Rev. J. R. Britton and Rev. Mr. Craft. The pastorate of Rev. Mr. Swaney was succeeded by that of Rev. J. W. Smith, on May 15, 1883, and he was followed by Rev. W. E. Stewart in 1889. Rev. J. J. Sharpe, who became pastor early in 1890, did a very good work, but remained only about a year and a half. After his departure the congregation depended for its public services upon occasional clerical supplies.

In March, 1894, the congregation called to the pastorate William E. McBride, a student in the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Immediately after his ordination he took charge of the congregation as its pastor, on July 19th, and has continued as such, his term of office being consequently the longest in the history of the church. It extends over twenty-four years. He is a fine exemplar of the sturdy Christianity for which the United Presbyterian Church stands. His work has been very successful, and the congregation has been very happy under his ministrations. When he took charge of the church there were one hundred and twenty members; now there are three hundred and twenty-five. The congregation has grown steadily, not only in numbers but also in influence. In 1907, under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. McBride, the congregation commenced the erection of a new church, which was completed in 1908 at a cost of about forty thousand dollars, and with the parsonage furnishes a very adequate and worthy equipment for the United Presbyterians. This church has always had a very effective Ladies' Missionary Society and several active Young People's Societies, a Christian Endeavor Society, and a very helpful organization of Cheerful Workers.

#### UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The work of the United Evangelical Church in Franklin began in 1870 under great dis-

couragements. The first members were J. A. Rossman and wife, both of whom had been members of the Evangelical Church for years previously. In March, 1870, the first appointment was made in what was known as Hunter's Hall, situated on Elk street, near Thirteenth street, by Rev. James Crouseman, who, in company with Rev. J. Woodhull, was laboring in the adjacent Dempseytown and Springville charges.

Rev. J. H. Bates, assisted by Rev. G. S. Domer, held a series of meetings lasting ten days. Much interest was manifested in this effort. A report of the prospects was taken to the annual Conference and the propriety of sending a missionary to Franklin was duly considered. Rev. J. H. Domer was sent out, and he served Franklin and Oil City. He preached his first sermon on April 24, 1870, in the old courthouse. Thereafter he held services in what was known as the "Old Academy property," which was rented from the school authorities of the city. The membership during this year consisted of eight persons, made up from the families of the presiding elder, the Rev. J. D. Hollinger, the missionary, Rev. J. D. Domer and J. A. Rossman.

In 1871 Rev. J. H. Bates was appointed missionary, and the attendance gradually increased and the prospect grew very encouraging. In September, 1872, the school authorities undertook to sell the "Old Academy property" to the highest bidder. The missionary, in conjunction with Rev. J. D. Hollinger and J. A. Rossman, made arrangements to purchase the property in case it was not bidden too high by other bidders, and it was secured by Rev. J. H. Bates at the low figure of \$3,075, it being valued at this time at about five thousand dollars. The two lower rooms of the building were rented to the school authorities for school purposes, and the rental paid the interest on the money borrowed for the purchase. The acquisition of the property gave a new impetus to the work. It immediately began to command more influence, and people looked upon it not as a mere trial which would soon fail, but as a lasting work. On the 10th of November, 1871, a series of meetings was begun, continuing eight weeks and resulting in fifty conversions. The membership at the close of this year had numbered about forty.

In 1872 Rev. W. M. Stanford was appointed missionary, it being his first work. The property was repaired, and dedicated on Oct. 15, 1872. The Rev. T. G. Clewell officiated at the dedication, and the sum of eleven hundred dol-

lars was raised at the service. During the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Stanford considerable attention was given to the Sunday school enterprise. The attendance increased from between fifteen and twenty to between sixty and seventy-five.

In 1888, under the pastorate of Rev. L. M. Boyer, the "Old Academy" building was torn down and a new building erected, which was dedicated Dec. 23, 1888, at a cost of five thousand dollars.

In 1900, under the pastorate of Rev. A. J. Beal, the *Rocky Grove United Evangelical Church* was built at a cost of \$2,068.68.

In 1902, under the pastorate of Rev. C. D. Slagle, the *Oak Hill United Evangelical Church* was built.

In 1912, under the second pastorate of Rev. C. D. Slagle, the trustees decided to erect a new and more commodious church building, adapted especially for Sunday school work. The last service in the old church was held May 11, 1913. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on Aug. 10, 1913, Rev. F. E. Hetrick, a former pastor under whose pastorate the building fund was started, officiating. The new church was completed and dedicated on Jan. 25, 1914, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars, under the pastorate of Rev. F. N. Boyer. Bishop W. M. Stanford officiated at the dedication.

On Sept. 15, 1914, when Rev. S. V. Carmany began his pastorate, there was an indebtedness of \$9,156.00. Through his energetic efforts the entire debt has been cancelled. The membership of the church now numbers more than five hundred, and it is one of the leading congregations of the Pittsburgh Conference.

The following are the names of the missionaries and pastors of the church in the order in which they have served: Rev. J. D. Domer, 1870-1871; Rev. J. H. Bates, 1871-1872; Rev. W. M. Stanford, 1872-1875; Rev. J. H. Bates, 1875-1877; Rev. J. Q. A. Weller, 1877-1878; Rev. H. C. Hurd, 1878-1881; Rev. F. P. Saylor, 1881-1883; Rev. B. F. Feitt, 1883-1884; Rev. Theodore Bach, 1884-1887; Rev. L. M. Boyer, 1887-1890; Rev. W. F. Shannon, 1890-1893; Rev. J. Q. A. Curry, 1893-1897; Rev. A. J. Beal, 1897-1900; Rev. C. D. Slagle, 1900-1904; Rev. A. J. Bird, 1904-1905; Rev. F. D. Ellenberger, 1905-1908; Rev. F. E. Hetrick, 1908-1912; Rev. C. D. Slagle, 1912-1913; Rev. F. N. Boyer, 1913-1914; Rev. S. V. Carmany, 1914, who continues as the efficient and popular pastor of this Franklin Church.

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH***St. Patrick's, Franklin*

The formal organization of the Roman Catholic Church in the county is of comparatively recent date, but the rites and ceremonies of the church were administered in these parts when Venango county was a savage wilderness. In the summer of 1749 Celoron's expedition descended the Allegheny river and took possession in the name of France. Its chaplain, the Rev. Joseph Peter de Bonnecamp, ministered to the soldiers of the expedition and to such Indians as he could reach. In the spring of 1754, upon the completion of Fort Machault and its occupation by a garrison, the services of the Roman Catholic Church were held regularly by the chaplains here and at Presque Isle, Le Boeuf, and Duquesne. Among the white settlers of Venango county there was from the first a sprinkling of Roman Catholics; but it was not sufficiently great or concentrated to organize a congregation. From about 1807 the scattered faithful were visited by missionary priests, among them the Rev. Fathers William O'Brian, Charles McGuire, Patrick O'Neil and John O'Reilly. In about 1819 Jeremiah Clancy came from Philadelphia to Franklin. He established himself at the corner of Thirteenth and Elk streets in 1830. Like William Cary he was a shoemaker. The services of the Church were held at his house by the visiting priests. Gradually the number of the Roman Catholic families increased. On May 1, 1852, Michael Gormley and a few others purchased a lot from Arnold Plumer. Several efforts were made to organize a congregation, but they failed. However, the Rev. John Pugh continued to say Mass at the house of Mr. Clancy. Later the congregation met in the second story of John Duffield's building on Liberty street, and still later in the old Academy on Buffalo street. Father Pugh collected some funds for a church building, but the work of soliciting was completed by the Rev. Arthur Mignault. On Sunday, May 21, 1865, the Rev. J. D. Coady laid the cornerstone of a frame church. The congregation was organized under the name of St. Patrick's Church. Father Mignault also erected a parochial residence. Several clergymen followed in rapid succession. In 1869 the Rev. Thomas Carroll was appointed pastor. In 1870 Bishop Mullen consecrated the church and also some land purchased for a cemetery. Father Carroll then bought two lots at Tenth and Liberty streets, and had the church and parsonage moved to this site.

In 1870 the Rev. John Quincy Adams suc-

ceeded Father Carroll. He served St. Patrick's for nearly sixteen years with great ability and exceptional fidelity. During his pastorate the present church edifice was erected. On May 27, 1879, Bishop Mullen laid the cornerstone of the new church. The work was pushed forward as rapidly as possible, and the church was completed in May, 1882. The church was dedicated by the Bishop on the 21st day of May with elaborate ceremonial. It was a day of great triumph for Father Adams—the just reward of his devotion. He died suddenly while on a visit to Mansfield, Ohio, on June 23, 1887, universally mourned by the people of Franklin irrespective of their religious affiliations. He was succeeded by the Rev. James P. McCloskey. He was a fine administrator, and so a worthy successor to Father Adams. He was instrumental in having the indebtedness of St. Patrick's paid and in having the handsome parochial residence erected. He projected the parochial school building and did much to make it possible. He was succeeded by the Rev. Peter Donohue, who carried forward with great fidelity the work of Father McCloskey for nearly sixteen years, until God called him to his rest. The present pastor is the Rev. Father T. B. Downey, a most attractive and devoted priest, who is maintaining the best traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and is commanding himself and the great cause of Christ to the entire community. The parish now comprises three hundred families, about twelve hundred souls.

*St. Catharine's, Cranberry*

It is recorded that the first place of worship owned by the Roman Catholic Church in Cranberry township was the stone house on the pike near Hall's Run. This was acquired shortly after 1834, probably through the zeal of Owen Boyle, at whose house the missionary priests of that early day usually stopped on their way from the southern to the northern part of the State. The little congregation became known as St. Catharine's Church. After the organization of the parishes at Franklin, Oil City, and Emlenton the pastors of these congregations ministered to St. Catharine's. The present church at Salina was dedicated on Sept. 16, 1888.

*St. Joseph's Church, Oil City*

The services of the Roman Catholic Church were held in the homes of members of the

Church when there were but a few straggling houses at the mouth of Oil creek. The officiating priests came usually from Fryburg or the villages of Clarion county. The services assumed some degree of regularity during the winter of 1859-60. The Rev. Patrick O'Neil officiated here at this time. The congregation consisted of the Moran, Sweeney and Gavin families. Fathers Reynolds, Dean, Mitchell, Koch, and Delaroque also ministered to the congregation of the future Oil City. In those early years, and for some time after 1863, the services were held on a flatboat owned by Captain Sweeney and moored near the yards of the Oil City Lumber Company. The first resident pastor was the Rev. David Snively, and the congregation was organized under the title of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. The erection of a church edifice was begun under his pastorate, and it was completed under that of his successor, the Rev. J. D. Coady. The Rev. Thomas Carroll assumed the pastorate in 1871. The church was enlarged in 1872 and dedicated by Bishop Young of Erie after its completion. Father Carroll, assisted by the talented Father Ray, ministered with great acceptance and efficiency to St. Joseph's and to the Roman Catholics of the vicinity. They had the valued assistance in their missionary labors of the Rev. Frs. J. L. Finucane, John Smith, Peter Brady, Peter Cawley and J. B. Roycroft. The parochial residence was erected in 1874, and in 1875 the parochial school building—erected in 1870—was enlarged. The Benedictine Sisters have here ministered effectively to the education of the Roman Catholic youth of Oil City. During Father Coady's administration the congregation also acquired a tract of land, which was consecrated as St. Joseph's Cemetery. During this decade the matter of a new and larger St. Joseph's Church was agitated.

Father Carroll made every possible preparation to displace the old church on Pearl street with a new church. On July 1, 1898, he was succeeded by the present pastor, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Peter J. Sheridan, and the new St. Joseph's, placed on a commanding site, became an accomplished fact. Father Carroll was privileged to witness its dedication in 1890. Mgr. Sheridan is highly esteemed for his sterling character and constructive work for the church, the schools and the convent.

#### *St. Stephen's Church*

After the death of Father Carroll St. Joseph's Church was divided and St. Stephen's

Church was organized on the South Side. The Rev. John Link became its first pastor. The organization was effected about 1890. The trustees secured the residence and land of the late W. L. Lay. Father Link occupied the house as a parochial residence and conducted the services of the Church in the parlor. Soon another building on the property was converted into a chapel, the equipment being supplied from the old St. Joseph's. Father Link was succeeded in 1904 after the brief locum tenancy of the Rev. Thomas Cantlin, by the present pastor, the Rev. James F. Fielding. The best evidence of his Christian devotion, artistic taste and administrative ability is the magnificent St. Stephen's Church which adorns the South Side. Work was begun in October, 1905, and resumed in July, 1906, and the church was completed the following year and dedicated on Dec. 22, 1907. Father Fielding continues his excellent work for the church.

#### *St. Michael's Church, Emlenton*

The first steps toward the erection of a Roman Catholic Church at Emlenton were taken in 1867, when Michael McCollough, Jr., of Pittsburgh, gave three acres of ground for that purpose and also an additional tract for a burial ground. The few Roman Catholic families residing in Emlenton, those of Judge Keating, Henry Gormley and T. A. Moran, had been visited by the pastors of adjoining parishes. The Rev. John Koch of Clarion had been especially attentive and really gathered the faithful in a congregation. In the autumn of 1870 Bishop Mullen of the Diocese of Erie laid the cornerstone of a small frame church, and he officiated at its dedication the following year. The congregation was organized as a parish in 1871 by the Rev. Patrick J. Smith, under the title of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. A parochial residence was added to the parish equipment in 1872. Father Smith remained pastor until his death, on Aug. 2, 1888. He was a devoted pastor and faithful priest. His immediate successor was the Rev. Hugh Mullen, who has carried forward the good work of his predecessor.

#### AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

The members of this branch of the Methodist Church residing in Franklin met for service in the house on the Anderson lot owned by Squire Connely. The congregation was organized in October, 1865, in the house of Anthony Harris, the Rev. James Henry of

Pittsburgh, presiding at the meeting of organization. In the year 1878 the Annual Conference of the denomination was held in Franklin, the sessions being held in the First Methodist Church. The Rev. Joseph Clinton was the presiding bishop, and the Rev. Abraham Cole was the first presiding elder of the district.

After worshiping for some years in the Wesleyan Methodist Church the congregation was reorganized in a house occupying the site of the present church in the rear of Fourteenth street, by the Rev. Joseph Armstrong. The following were chosen trustees of the congregation: Anthony Harris, Samuel Adams, Hezekiah Scott, Caleb Marshall and William Hicks. A parsonage was secured in 1890, the old church edifice being adapted for this purpose. In this year also the congregation resolved to build a new church. The congregation has had its anxieties and struggles, but it has not grown "weary in well doing." The new church was built under the pastorate of the Rev. William H. Snowden, and the church was therefore called the Snowden Chapel. To the Rev. Thomas Slater belongs the honor of securing the payment of the mortgage indebtedness in 1902; and the Rev. J. H. Simpson has the honor of settling amicably the long standing dispute between the African Methodist Episcopal Bethel Church and the Zion Church. During the pastorate of the Rev. Daniel F. Bradley it was necessary to place a mortgage on the church. It is now being reduced. The list of the successive pastors follows: The Revs. Messrs. James Henry, Joseph Armstrong, Richard Ferman, J. Edward Little, John Fiddler, John V. Givens, John H. Tremble, Nathan H. Williams. The present pastor is the Rev. H. Preston Whitehead. He has been successful in greatly reducing the mortgage, has materially improved the church and the parsonage, and has just opened a reading room in the church building to accommodate the present great influx of colored people from the South.

#### *Bethel Congregation*

For some years a small group of colored people in Franklin attended the Wesleyan Chapel at the corner of Fourteenth and Eagle streets, erected in 1854. The colored brethren desired a minister of their own race, and withdrew in 1868. A part of them, under the leadership of James Lawson, a local preacher, formed the Bethel congregation, which church was formally organized by the Rev. J. M. Morris in the home of Seth Stevens in 1876.

The following were the charter members: James Lawson, Douglas Fields, Seth Stevens, Nannie Stevens and Charles Sweeny. The first pastor regularly appointed by the Conference was the Rev. Benjamin Wheeler. For some years the congregation held its services in Thorn's Hall, at the corner of Fourteenth and Chestnut streets. Later on the congregation worshipped in a hall at Thirteenth and Otter streets. Finally, through the kindness of friends and the earnest efforts of the congregation, a lot was secured on Elm street near Tenth. The church was erected in 1881 during the pastorate of the Rev. George Countee, and dedicated by his successor, the Rev. Robert Henderson. The parsonage was bought and improved during the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Vreeland. The following ministers besides those already mentioned have served as pastors of the Bethel Church: The Revs. Messrs. S. P. West; S. T. Jones; A. Palmer; Pride; Jackson; Washington; Honesty; Tucker; M. A. Dyer; Harrington; Smothers, and Norton. The present pastor is the Rev. H. H. Summers, an exceptionally able minister of God and highly esteemed by his congregation.

Thus we end our brief survey of the beginnings of organized Christianity in the County of Venango. It has been impossible to secure all the desired data. In some instances the records have been lost or destroyed. In some cases no records were made. In all the activities of men there is much that cannot be written down or converted into statistics. This is especially so with their religious activities. The organization of a congregation, the erection of a church and the payment of a debt may be recorded; but these are but outward and visible signs of spiritual activities, of Christian virtues, and graces, and of things, unseen and eternal, which cannot be made matters of record. But they are fully recorded in God's book of remembrance.

We cannot know of all the hardships endured by the early ministers of God who on foot or horseback journeyed through these parts to preach the Gospel of Christ and to break the Bread of Life to God's children. And we cannot compute the sacrifices that were made by those who formed the struggling congregations of this county and their spiritual conquests day by day, but God knows them all.

Under different Christian names these men and women and children have tried to serve God and man in their respective congregations.

So these churches of various names have tried within their several spheres to build up men in the Christian faith and Christian life, to make the world more fit to live in, and to make men more fit for Heaven. May God hasten the day

when our Christianity of many names may be bound together in a closer cooperation, to win men to God and goodness, and to convert the kingdoms of the world into the Kingdom of the Lord and His Christ.

## CHAPTER XX

### FRATERNAL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

CITY OF FRANKLIN—OIL CITY—THE SALVATION ARMY—WANANGO COUNTRY CLUB—EMLENTON—RENO—POLK—CHAPMANVILLE—ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP—SENECA—SALINA—ROUSEVILLE—DEMPSEYTOWN—COOPERSTOWN—PLEASANTVILLE—GRANGES OF VENANGO COUNTY

The group idea so much spoken of by modern philosophers made itself felt at an early day in Venango county. Fraternal organizations of many kinds were popular. Lodges, tents, councils and social clubs, from the sewing society of the mothers to the strictly masculine gatherings of the fathers, were necessary as part of the activities of a people eager for improvement and for self-preservation. Many organizations were formed, carried on for a few years, and then, having answered their purpose and fulfilled their destiny, disbanded or simply ceased to be. Regalias of one kind and another were packed away in attics, for another generation to admire or to wonder about. This history has sought to keep the record of those which have persisted, since space must be given to more vital subjects. But full credit is due to those who sought to advance the good objects for which every one of these dead and gone societies labored; and it is not to be believed that they did not fulfill their mission in the more circumscribed work of that earlier day.

No doubt one reason for the success of the long-lived societies is the fact they belong to some larger federation, which is always an incentive to effort. An illustration of this truth is the pathetic one of the G. A. R. That body, each year numbering less, has, and will have, to the last man, courage and faith in his Post, which to him has come to mean a brotherhood in that army of patriots who keep step to the music that still floats back to them from other days.

Venango county has a large number of fraternal and social organizations, which have proved an efficient means of developing a healthful civic spirit. They have also been the

vehicle for carrying on many important public works. We have grouped them according to the communities in which they are established.

#### CITY OF FRANKLIN

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has halls in the Odd Fellows block, Nos. 1137-1139 Liberty street.

*Venango Lodge, No. 255, I. O. O. F.*—Original charter was granted Aug. 2, 1847. Its institution occurred Oct. 26, 1847, with the following officers: W. H. Lamberton, N. G.; F. D. Kinnear, V. G.; W. Henry, S.; B. L. Alexander, A. S.; N. Cary, T.; J. P. Hoover, W.; N. R. Bushnell, C.; Thomas Shugert, O. G.; I. H. Shannon, I. G. This charter was burned with all the effects of the lodge. The present charter was granted to Charles Mihleder, N. G.; J. S. Bollman, V. G.; F. D. Sullinger, S.; H. E. Giddings, A. S.; Elias Borland, T. The present officers are: H. H. Hughes, N. G.; S. A. Moore, V. G.; J. E. Hill, recording secretary; J. B. Elliott, financial secretary; F. A. Brenkiron, treasurer. The lodge meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p. m.

*Venango Encampment, No. 150, I. O. O. F.*—It was organized Nov. 19, 1866. The first officers were: Thomas A. Martin, C. P.; David Guthrie, H. P.; William A. Thompson, S. W.; Harry Plance, J. W.; John R. Stanford, S.; S. J. McAninch, T.; J. O. Rockwell, and John Quinn, G. This lodge was temporarily suspended and the charter surrendered, but restored Aug. 28, 1886. Meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of the month, at 8 p. m. Present officers: S. C. Shaffer, C. P.; I. N. Griffin, scribe; I. N. French, treasurer.

*Minnie Lodge*, No. 144, I. O. O. F., Rebekah Degree, meets every Friday at 8 p. m. Lucy Fuller, N. G.; Fanny C. Thompson, V. G.; J. S. Bollman, S.; Clara Wenzel, A. S.; and N. Borland, T., were the first officers. The charter was received Feb. 5, 1886. The present officers are: Mrs. Jennie Stevens, N. G.; Mrs. Lena Haffner, V. G.; Minnie Glancey, secretary; Mae Leach, recording secretary; Mrs. Jessie Ritchey, treasurer.

*Myrtle Lodge*, No. 316, F. and A. M., was instituted Feb. 22, 1858, with the following officers: W. C. Evans, W. M.; Ethel Sheldadine, S. W.; G. E. Ridgway, J. W.; Myron Park, P.; Arthur Robinson, S.; S. L. Ulman, S. D.; John Evans, J. D.; Charles W. Mackey, chaplain; F. H. Park, M. C. Past Masters of this lodge: G. E. Ridgway, M. W. Sage, C. M. Hoover, Joseph Bell, C. W. Mackey, W. M. Epley, H. D. Hulin, J. W. Dewoody, Thomas Algoe, C. D. Elliott, P. R. Gray, G. S. Criswell, F. P. Martin, W. G. Ladds, Isaac St. Clair, M. D., A. Y. Findlay, Charles Cowgill. Present officers: William Ord Phipps, W. M.; Russell B. Hughes, S. W.; Edward D. Jordan, J. W.; Clyde M. Miller, treasurer; James M. Bridges, secretary. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month, at 7:30 p. m.

*Venango R. A. M. Chapter*, No. 211, was organized Nov. 26, 1866. It meets the second Friday of each month, at 7:30 p. m. The first officers were: M. W. Sage, M. E. H. P.; G. E. Ridgway, K.; C. M. Hoover, S.; Thomas Hoge, T.; W. M. Epley, S.; G. R. Snowdon, C. of H. Past High Priests: C. M. Hoover, C. W. Mackey, Joseph Bell, W. C. Howe, P. R. Gray, C. D. Elliott, Thomas Algoe, W. G. Ladds, J. R. Grant. Present officers: Golda A. Jackson, M. E. H. P.; William Ord Phipps, K.; Harry W. Claybaugh, scribe; James M. Bridges, secretary.

*Keystone Council*, No. 42, R. and S. M., was organized Aug. 18, 1871, with the following officers: M. W. Sage, T. I. M.; G. E. Ridgway, D. I. M.; C. W. Mackey, P. C. of W.; A. Plumer, T.; J. W. Rowland, S.; G. R. Snowdon, C. of G.; J. E. Muse, Sentinel. Past T. I. Masters: M. W. Sage, C. W. Mackey, W. C. Howe. Present officers: James G. C. Cole, T. I. M.; Arthur K. Helle, D. I. M.; Harry N. Claybaugh, P. C. of W.; Clay M. Miller, treasurer; Ray O. Kelsey, recorder. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, at 7:30 p. m.

*Franklin Commandery*, No. 44, K. T., constituted Oct. 24, 1871, meets the fourth Thursday of each month, at 7:30 p. m. The

first officers were: M. W. Sage, E. C.; G. E. Ridgway, G.; G. R. Snowdon, C. G.; A. Plumer, T.; Charles Miller, R.; C. W. Mackey, S. W.; H. A. Miller, J. W.; Charles Bollman, S. B.; G. W. Plumer, S. B.; J. E. Muse, Sentinel. Past Eminent Commanders: M. W. Sage, C. W. Mackey, H. D. Hulin, W. C. Howe, D. D. Grant, Thomas Algoe, J. E. Gill, George Maloney. Present officers: Willard W. Wilt, E. C.; J. Clarence McMullen, generalissimo; Herbert A. Clawson, captain general; Ray O. Kelsey, recorder.

*Nursery Chapter*, No. 25, Order of the Eastern Star, meets in P. H. C. Hall, Printz block, first Tuesday evening of each month. Officers: W. M., Mrs. Mary S. Davis; W. P., Golda A. Jackson; A. M., Elnora Duncan; treasurer, Florence Trow; secretary, Edna M. King.

*Franklin Lodge*, No. 3, A. O. U. W., was organized June 9, 1870. The original charter was destroyed by fire, and the present instrument was granted Feb. 24, 1886, to W. L. Corrin, P. M. W.; M. Quinn, M. W.; George Sanderson, G. F.; S. W. Smith, O.; J. K. Elliott, R.; A. Kolb, F.; Henry T. James, R.; W. C. Ridgway, G.; J. C. Deemer, J. W.; J. McElhaney, O. W. The present officers are: August Leach, M. W.; Albert Kolb, financier; Thomas J. Barr, recorder and receiver. This lodge meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p. m., in Room 409, Printz block.

*Franklin Legion*, No. 25, S. K. of A. O. U. W., was instituted by G. C. Charles Babst, March 20, 1886. The first trustees were: H. W. Bostwick, Moses Wachtel and B. S. Black. First officers: W. L. Corrin, S. C.; D. I. Dale, V. C.; M. Quinn, L. C.; B. J. Feldman, R.; Henry T. James, T.; A. Kolb, B. E. Swan, George Maloney, W. C. Ridgway, R. J. Ratcliffe, D. A. McElhaney, and D. B. Wilhelm. It is now consolidated with Lodge No. 3, A. O. U. W.

*French Creek Tribe*, No. 147, Improved Order of Red Men, received its charter under date of March 22, 1871. The first members were: J. H. McCracken, J. H. Spencer, H. A. Plance, F. D. Sullinger, M. Singer, G. B. Fox, S. B. Myers, Alex Vincent, C. Wacksmuth, Felix Grossman, John Lytle, Edward Rial, N. B. Myers. It has continued strong to the present, holding meetings the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the P. H. C. hall in the Printz block. Officers for 1918: Sachem, O. A. Grimm; sen. sag., C. E. Stark; A. of R., W. M. Black; K. of W., J. J. Scannell.

*St. Patrick's Benevolent Society*, a branch of the Irish Catholic Benevolent Union, was instituted in November, 1875, with R. Hammond, president; B. Darrah, vice president; H. J. Strodmeyer, secretary, and John O'Neil, treasurer.

*Franklin City Lodge, No. 48, K. of P.*, was started March 13, 1876, with D. L. Potter, P. C.; M. King, C. C.; B. W. Bredin, V. C.; Rev. F. Evans, P.; M. Bridges, M. at A.; R. W. Redfield, K. of R. and S.; Joseph Walker, M. of F.; A. Y. Findley, M. of Ex.; J. R. Connor, I. G.; Thomas Walker, O. G.; B. F. Frost, R., and fifty-four others as charter members. There is no lodge of this order in Franklin now.

*Branch No. 2, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association*, was instituted Jan. 24, 1878. The first officers were: J. S. McGarry, president; P. Quinlivan, first vice president; G. W. Sutley, treasurer; H. J. Strodmeyer, secretary; D. McCarthy, marshal; J. E. Maher, guard; Rev. J. Q. Adams, spiritual adviser; J. Sheehan, P. Gormley, L. J. Heffernan, J. S. McGarry, and P. Quinlivan, directors. The present officers are: President, F. A. Doherty; financial secretary, W. C. Hubler; treasurer, M. McDonough. Meetings are held in the Sacred Heart School hall the first and last Tuesdays of each month, at 8 p. m.

*Crawford Lodge, No. 3, Knights and Ladies of Honor*, was instituted Sept. 15, 1879, with thirty-six charter members. This body seems to have gone out of existence.

*Venango Council, No. 33, Royal Templars of Temperance*, was begun March 21, 1879. The first charter was burned and the present instrument granted March 16, 1886, to D. W. Morgan, S. C.; C. W. Smith, V. C.; J. M. Fredenberg, P. C.; D. Wilhelm, chaplain; E. Howard, R. D. Tipple, secretaries, and E. P. Howard, treasurer. There is no record of this order at present.

*Lockhard Lodge, No. 1534, Knights of Honor*, was chartered Sept. 30, 1879. Forty members were on the roll. The names of R. G. Lamberton, C. M. Hoover, H. B. Plumer, G. S. Criswell, W. W. Peters, P. Engelskirger and W. A. Horton appear there. No records now remain of this organization.

*Franklin Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 76*, was organized by George W. White Dec. 8, 1880. This organization has also disappeared.

*Franklin Union, No. 51, Equitable Aid Union*, was organized March 11, 1881, with Mrs. Frank E. Whann, chancellor; H. H. Ware, advocate; J. M. Dickey, president; Mrs. W. A. Horton, vice president; Mrs.

Frances Evans, auxiliary; Mrs. Anna G. Adams, treasurer; Mrs. A. C. Giddings, secretary. When this Union "crossed the bar" is not known.

*Nursery Union, No. 183, Equitable Aid Union*, was organized in 1885 with the following officers: Samuel Huntsberger, chancellor; J. R. Borland, advocate; George Malloney, president; Mary L. Mallory, vice president; J. R. Watson, treasurer; A. Kolb, secretary. The date of its dissolution is not known.

*Maj. William B. Mays Post, No. 220, G. A. R.*, was mustered July 25, 1881, by Edward O. Farrelly, with the following comrades and officers: Isaac St. Clair, commander; William Rickards, officer of the day; John King, adjutant; P. R. Gray, C. S. Mark, J. W. Clark, F. P. Saylor, G. W. Boyles, P. Engelskirger, J. A. King, Jacques Buscha, C. W. Mackey, D. P. Brown, C. E. Taylor, M. J. Colman, J. M. Gardener, F. I. Nolan, Alfred Elmont, L. H. Fassett, G. O. Ellis, W. C. Howe, Samuel Lindsey, John Huston, G. D. Applegarth, Casper Frank, J. S. May, Moore Bridges, J. P. Barr, J. R. Snow, J. H. Cain, J. W. Grant, John Henninger, R. H. Woodburn, Ephraim Black, R. Watson, C. R. Levier, L. G. Sibley, M. Kirkland, G. W. Hemphill, J. H. Whitaker, W. A. Horton, W. S. Welsh, George Pohl, James Dunlap, J. W. Welsh, B. W. Bredin, Isa Black, R. Hilands, W. Deuchler, B. E. Swan, and O. W. Hanson. Following is the list of past commanders: Isaac St. Clair, William Rickards, J. S. May, C. W. Howe, L. H. Fassett, C. W. Mackey, James Dunlap, G. D. Applegarth, N. P. Kinsley, M. R. Paden. This Post, though its numbers are steadily diminishing, has lost none of its patriotism or ideals of Americanism. It meets at the Armory building, second Monday of each month. The present officers are: Com., Gen. Charles Miller; Adj., E. A. Wilson; surgeon, J. B. Glenn, M. D.; L. M., William Ashton; chaplain, R. H. Woodburn.

*Woman's Relief Corps*, auxiliary to Mays Post, received its charter bearing date June 22, 1888, when the officers were: Mrs. Mary Snowden, president; Mrs. Lauretta Mackey, S. V. P.; Mrs. Mary Wiley, J. V. P.; Mrs. Alma A. Shephard, secretary, and Mrs. Anna Rheem, treasurer. This organization continues its effective work under enthusiastic leaders.

*United Spanish War Veterans, Camp Charles P. Barnes, No. 36*, has the following officers: Com., H. S. Small; adjutant, J. A. Mawhinney; Q. M., James McElhinney.

*Venango County Medical Society* meets in

Oil City and Franklin alternately, the third Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September and November. President: Dr. L. E. McBride; vice president, Dr. J. R. Sharp; secretary, Dr. J. Irwin Zerbe; treasurer, Dr. J. P. Davis; censors, Drs. W. A. Nicholson, John B. Glenn, J. P. Strayer.

*Franklin Aerie, No. 328, Fraternal Order of Eagles*, meets in the Mattern block second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Officers: W. P., H. J. Henderson; W. V. P., Robert McCune; W. treasurer, A. C. McMullen; W. secretary, W. C. Stewart.

*Franklin Council, No. 1020, Knights of Columbus*, meets in the P. H. C. hall, second and fourth Mondays of each month. Secretary, E. E. French. This council upholds the fine traditions of the order. Its patriotic work is in line with the best and is definite and valuable.

*Michael Angelo Council, No. 850, Royal Arcanum*, was instituted June 8, 1885, with the following members: Fred Evans, D. C. Galbraith, J. S. Ballman, H. K. Mattern, F. Stratton, G. S. Criswell, R. B. Mattern, Edward D. Allen, W. W. Baker, A. Jackson, Henry F. James, C. W. Gilfillan, James W. Lee, E. W. Echols, Henry H. Ware, Robert McCalmont, M. C. Flower, William Shaffer, Thomas Alexander, Henry G. Sheasley, Jacob Sheasley, B. W. Bredin, N. P. Tobin, T. B. Sheasley, J. W. Reamer, George Pohl, W. W. Duffield, James Smith, E. G. Crawford, W. J. Lamberton. This council in 1918 had the following officers: Regent, W. R. Smith; V. R., J. P. Vanderwell; secretary, G. W. Crider; treasurer, C. J. Crawford; collector, F. F. Thurston.

*Father Adams Council, No. 229, Catholic Benevolent Legion*, was instituted July 8, 1888. The first officers were: J. S. McGarry, president; M. W. Kinney, vice president; L. J. Heffernan, orator; F. P. Lynch, secretary; Jacob L. Smith, collector; E. Jeunet, treasurer; Sebastian Wilson, marshal; W. H. Wilson, guard; John M. Riesenman, S. J. Wilson and James P. McCloskey, trustees. There is no record of the organization at present.

*Franklin Lodge, No. 110, B. P. O. E.*, was instituted March 21, 1889, by District Deputy W. H. Wallace. The following officers were installed: Thomas McGough, E. R.; A. Kolb, E. L. K.; James B. Borland, E. L. K.; J. P. Keene, E. L. K.; H. G. Reading, secretary; E. Bleakley, treasurer; A. G. Galbraith, tyler; F. N. Raymond, Perry DeWoody and E. W. Smith, trustees. The present officers are: E. R., H. W. Lamberton; secretary, A. Kolb;

recorder and receiver, Thomas J. Barr. The lodge meets at Room 409, Printz block, on first and third Thursdays of each month.

*The Elk Club, No. 110*, is located at No. 1307 Elk street. House committee: John P. Emery, James G. Cole, J. J. Van Dresser.

*Union No. 13, Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union of America*, was organized Aug. 19, 1889, with James McElhinney, president; B. A. Grim, recording secretary; L. D. Hunsberger, corresponding secretary; Henry Thomas, treasurer; Thomas Seaton, door-keeper. This union is vigorous. It meets at Cornplanter Hall, on second and fourth Thursdays of each month. President, John E. Maher; vice president, George Blyler; secretary, John E. Ritchey; treasurer, Charles Lun-dager.

*Franklin Library Association* has a central location in the Hancock block which makes the institution available to all. Its rooms are inviting and most attractive, open from 2 to 5 and from 7 to 9 p. m. The president is Col. S. C. Lewis; vice president, Mrs. Robert McCalmont; secretary and treasurer, Mary E. Hancock; librarian, Mary Clarke; assistant librarian, Louise Hanna; directors, Clifford Barnhard, Mrs. James Carmichael, Mary E. Hancock, Col. S. C. Lewis, Mrs. W. J. Mullins, J. Howard Smiley, Robert McCalmont. This library has a fine collection of books. Its files of newspapers are of exceptional interest and value, some of the papers being the only ones of their kind in existence so far as we know. These are of inestimable worth to those who need to consult them. The library patronage is large.

*Protected Home Circle, Franklin Circle No. 20*, was instituted with C. W. Gilfillan, P. P.; S. P. Haslet, G.; E. Borland, president; S. Smith, vice president; C. C. Ramsdale, secretary; H. A. Myers, treasurer; H. G. Reading, accountant; Mrs. M. Bridges, chaplain. The officers in 1918 are: President, E. G. Blomer; vice president, W. A. Wygant; secretary, Mary Coleman; treasurer, David Isenburg; accountant, Harriet McDonald.

*Woodmen of the World, Forest Camp No. 12*, chose the following officers for 1918: C. C., H. C. Smith; A. L., Ralph Gibbons; clerk, A. T. Bell; banker, Harry Bell.

*The Franklin Club*, Franklin. This popular club, organized in 1877, was known for many years as the Nursery Club. Long years of thinking of Franklin as a nursery of great men made the logical name for the new organization the Nursery Club. Unlike many cities of the world, Franklin has always been

quick to recognize talent and genius. The town admired and applauded the club name. But for reasons that seemed good it has been changed to that of Franklin. Under its present name, which was given two years ago, it has kept its hold upon its friends. Its history would make an interesting story. Many men acknowledged by the outside world have been entertained in its fine rooms. Parties that pleased many have been gathered there. One held in honor of Governor Pennypacker is one of the most notable entertainments ever given in the county. The host, Gen. Charles Miller, offered to his guests a scene of surpassing beauty. The pink hangings and wall decorations were almost covered with American beauty roses, and while it was October outside it seemed June within. Many guests from Oil City, Franklin, and from many other parts of the State carried away a lively sense of having taken part in a pageant of beauty and delight. The reading room, dining hall, bowling alley and ball room of this club all contribute to the delightful social life of Franklin.

The officers of the club at present, 1918, are: President, J. T. Crawford, Jr.; vice president, E. E. Boyd; secretary and treasurer, F. F. Stevens; governors, C. B. Dolson, H. W. Breckenridge, J. French Miller, B. H. Waterbury, E. M. Hedley, H. F. Grant.

*Venango Chapter, D. A. R.*, was organized in 1895 with twelve members, viz.: Mrs. Anne Brackenridge Adams, Mrs. Anna Dale Alexander, Mrs. M. Louise Johnson Bostwick, Mrs. Leah J. Dale Fassett, Mrs. M. Kate Hancock, Miss Ella C. Hancock, Miss Mary E. Hancock, Mrs. Katharine Dale Lapsley, Mrs. Lauretta Barnes Fay Mackey, Mrs. Sarah Frances McCalmont, Mrs. Sarah A. Smith, Miss E. Jane Snowden Woodburn. The first officers were: Mrs. McCalmont, regent; Mrs. Bostwick, registrar; Mrs. Fassett, secretary; Mrs. Hancock, treasurer. The present officers are: Mrs. Charles N. Hough, regent; Mrs. Frederic A. Prentice, registrar; Mrs. Clifford Barnard, treasurer; Miss Louise Bostwick, secretary.

#### OIL CITY

Oil City from an early day developed the tendency to gather itself into groups and to carry on its civic and social obligations by means of organizations.

*The Young Men's Association*, a social club organized in 1865, established a reading room in the Mercantile block on Center, Railway and

Sycamore streets. The first president was Rev. W. P. Moore. The vice presidents were H. A. Converse and E. P. Casterline. John McDonough was secretary, G. B. Candy, treasurer, J. D. Balen, librarian. The library was valued at eight hundred dollars. After the fire of 1866 the library practically disappeared.

*The Oil City Library Association* had a short life of six years from 1870. Its books to the number of several hundred were finally presented to the Oil City High School. Its prominent members were J. B. Smithman, W. W. Balland, William L. Lay.

*Petrolia Lodge, No. 362, F. and A. M.*, is distinguished as the first secret society in the city. Its officers and charter members, installed on Wednesday evening, March 21, 1866, by Deputy Grand Master S. B. Dick, of Meadville, were as follows: W. F. Groves, W. M.; Charles H. Shephard, S. W.; A. W. Myers, J. W.; W. R. Johns, secretary; P. Smith, treasurer; J. H. Evans, S. D.; W. Porterfield, J. D.; David Patton, tyler; J. R. Arter, H. B. Castle, Joseph Bushnell, John G. McKinley, S. S. Safford, A. R. Marlin. They first met in a Third Ward hall, but from 1867 to about 1870 held meetings in the Odd Fellows hall, on Center street. The lodge had a fine hall in the Windsor block, but now holds its stated meetings the first Friday in each month in the Masonic hall, Nos. 17-19 East First street. The membership has been large and increasing. The officers in 1918 are: W. M., Thomas L. Blair; S. W., Linden W. Wolf; J. W., Frank R. Perrine; secretary, Gordon B. Moore; treasurer, Harry P. Baker.

*Talbot Commandery, No. 43, Knights Templars*, was organized Sept. 16, 1871, under John J. Fisher, eminent commander; W. H. Porterfield, generalissimo, and Thomas R. Cowell, captain general. This order met in Masonic hall and soon had a membership of eighty. Some of the past eminent commanders have been: J. J. Fisher, T. R. Cowell, Andrew W. Cox, David Laughlin, Isaac M. Sowers, J. N. McGonigle, Abel L. Confer, James B. Crawford, D. E. Byles, J. H. Chickering, Arthur K. Helle. In 1918 the officers are: E. C., George E. Kincaid; recorder, H. H. Lowrie; treasurer, S. H. Lamberton. Stated conclave first Tuesday evening of each month.

*Oil City Royal Arch Chapter, No. 236*, was organized March 10, 1872, with W. F. Groves, H. P.; Andrew W. Cox, K.; W. W. White, S. The present officers are as follows: M. E. H. P., Joseph H. Contino; king, Thomas W. Carson; scribe, Bemus B. Weber; treasurer, William J. Gealy; secretary, James A. Long.

Stated meetings the first Monday of each month.

*The Acacia Club* (Masonic) is open every day for members. President: W. H. Flann; vice president, Frank R. Hays; treasurer, W. E. Slater; secretary, H. K. Mohr.

*The Masonic Hall Association* holds its annual meeting for stockholders the third Tuesday of January. Officers: President, C. E. Cooper; vice president, C. H. Lay; treasurer, H. R. Merritt; secretary, W. I. Rehr. The hall is a beautiful building, erected in 1900, and contains lodge rooms equipped with everything required by the various societies. The lower floor is rented for stores, and an upper floor for offices.

*Holly Chapter, No. 91, Order of the Eastern Star*, meets at Latonia Hall the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. W. M., Isabella MacKintosh; W. P., Ellery S. Rugh; secretary, Mrs. Mary J. Unger; treasurer, Emma J. Hadley.

*Oil City Lodge, No. 589, I. O. O. F.*, was organized Sept. 22, 1866. The officers were as follows: J. Borland, N. G.; W. W. Ford, V. G.; J. J. Brodhead, S.; George Durrond, A. S.; J. R. Robertson, treasurer. These, with B. Lovendall, H. S. Brocklehurst, A. J. Coulson, Joseph Day, D. R. Carnahan, H. B. Wilhelm, J. B. Howe, C. T. Webber, G. W. Swoyer, Jacob F. Neely, Isaac Bleakley, W. J. Bell, I. B. Jacobs, T. S. Zuver, James Karney and J. O. Jack, received the charter. This lodge had a three-story building on Seneca street, purchased in 1889, valued at fifteen thousand dollars. At present this thriving organization meets at Odd Fellows Temple every Tuesday. It is now the largest lodge in the State. Officers: N. G., N. A. Beighley; V. G., W. F. Houser; financial secretary, J. N. Mark; recording secretary, James S. McLane; treasurer, W. H. Lilly.

*Cornplanter Lodge, No. 757, I. O. O. F.*, organized March, 1871, united with No. 589, as a constituent part of it.

*Oil City Encampment, No. 182, I. O. O. F.*, started on April 15, 1869, with the following charter members: P. J. Borland, chief patriarch; J. G. Ogden, high priest; J. N. Hinderliter, senior warden; F. F. Davis, junior warden; C. J. Brick, scribe; J. K. Lowrie, treasurer; J. R. Robertson, A. D. Deming, J. M. Sharp, A. E. Higbee, S. Fisher. They met in Odd Fellows Hall and increased their membership at once. Some of the patriarchs have been: J. N. Hinderliter, F. F. Davis, George Diamond, James R. Adams, P. N. Williamson, J. L. Dorworth, Orson O. Cul-

bertson, Jacob Simon, W. H. Aungst, J. J. Fisher, H. K. Mohr, W. H. Havice, F. A. Doddington, N. F. Leslie, David James, T. S. Anderson. The officers of this lodge in 1918 are as follows: C. P., George Hanks; S. W., Sylvan Anderson; J. W., C. B. Henderson; H. P., Floyd D. Hill; recording scribe, A. W. Kinney; financial scribe, J. A. Doddington; treasurer, James Carson.

*Latonia Lodge, No. 1018, I. O. O. F.*, meets at the Lay block every Monday evening. The present officers are: N. G., H. E. Bickel; V. G., John Swartzlander; treasurer, J. W. Osenider; financial secretary, W. H. Myers; recording secretary, F. I. Shannon.

*Daughters of Rebekah, Ella Rebekah Lodge, No. 36*, meets at Latonia lodge hall every Wednesday at 8 p. m. Officers: N. G., Lena M. McClinton; V. G., Esther R. Kelley; treasurer, Estella I. Hahn; financial secretary, Margaret Kern; recording secretary, Mrs. Clara A. Black.

*Patriarchs Militant, No. 9*, meets at the I. O. O. F. Temple first and third Fridays of each month. Captain, Charles Nellring; A. C. C. T., A. B. Moore; clerk, Walter L. Winskill.

*I. O. O. F. Temple*, Nos. 220-226 Seneca street. This substantial and handsome building is a credit to the order and to the city. It is a four-story brick block with large store rooms on the ground floor, many office rooms on the second and third floors. Commodious lodge rooms are on the fourth floor.

*Capt. William Evans Post, No. 167, G. A. R.*, was organized by a few members who remained from disbanded McCalmont Post. At a meeting called by Inspector General F. Tiltinghast, March 23, 1880, twenty-three were organized as charter members, from whom the following officers were elected: J. M. Grosh, commander; E. O'Flaherty, S. V. C.; M. Webster, J. V. C.; J. H. Heiveley, O. D.; Robert Hogan, O. G.; H. W. Dunlap, I. S. One hundred and thirty new members were soon mustered in, but there were so many withdrawals to institute other posts that there were but eighty members in 1889.

*William E. Downing Post, No. 435, G. A. R.*, was organized with forty-nine members in 1884. The following officers were installed: R. H. Renwick, commander; A. J. Stanley, S. V. C.; A. S. Brown, J. V. C.; John Gailey, O. D.; A. M. Breckenridge, O. G.; Rev. M. Miller, chaplain; J. R. Steele, Q. M.; James Lewis, surgeon; E. J. Ross, adjutant.

*R. B. Hayes Post, No. 167, G. A. R.*, formed by the consolidation of Evans and Downing

Posts. It has at the present time sixty members. The post meets in Cornplanter Hall the first Monday in each month. The officers are: Simon Delo, commander; Philip Johnson, S. V. C.; William Dougherty, J. V. C.; William H. Havice, O. D.; James Duncan, O. G.; A. M. Breckenridge, chaplain; W. H. Hileman, surgeon; E. Perrine, adjutant; H. L. Fulmer, Q. M.; D. Fisher, W. J. Magee and James L. Lewis, trustees.

This post is admirably sustained by the Woman's Relief Corps. No occasion of great interest is lost sight of by this fine organization and the suppers provided by the members are events not only of culinary importance but of patriotic inspiration.

*Woman's Relief Corps*, No. 30, was organized in 1885 as an auxiliary to Downing Post. Mrs. Sarah Ross was president, Mrs. Woodington treasurer, Miss Mattie Springer secretary, and Mrs. M. E. Daniels chaplain.

*Capt. William Evans Corps* was organized in 1886 with Mrs. Fannie C. Stephens as president. Mrs. Susan J. Stillwell, Mrs. Olive Slocum and Mrs. Emma Buckley were also charter members. When the G. A. R. Posts were consolidated the Relief Corps naturally united and took the No. 30. They have under successive patriotic women carried on their unfailing good work. In 1918 they meet in Cornplanter Hall, fourth Thursday of each month, in the afternoon. The officers are: President, Mrs. Jennie Carrington; treasurer, Mrs. Minnie Servey; secretary, Mrs. Etta Shanner.

*United Spanish War Veterans, Camp John I. Cann*, No. 39, meets at the Armory second Tuesday of each month.

*Rouseville Lodge*, No. 262, K. of P., was chartered Sept. 1, 1870, with nine members. The lodge increased greatly. It is now renamed *Oil City Lodge*, No. 262. It meets in the K. of P. hall, First National Bank building, every Tuesday evening. The officers: C. C., George B. Nurse; V. C., J. L. Banchi; M. of E., W. H. Purse; M. of F., C. J. First; K. of R. and S., Richard Pollard.

*Uniform Rank*, K. of P., was established Jan. 12, 1887, with thirty charter members. It meets at K. of P. hall every Friday evening. Captain, John Weaver; first lieutenant, H. J. Miller; second lieutenant, W. J. Borch; first sergeant, L. Banchi; second sergeant, Joseph Lalona; recorder, C. J. First, treasurer, W. H. First.

*Oil City Lodge*, No. 14, A. O. U. W., was chartered Jan. 21, 1873, with one hundred and forty-nine members. The first officers were:

P. N. Heard, P. M. W.; H. P. G. Carnes, M. W.; J. K. Lowery, G. F.; J. F. Israel, O.; E. Densmore, G.; W. S. Huff, J. W.; P. Fennell, O. W.; D. Yothers, F.; and R. R. Reardon, R. This lodge has persisted through the years with increasing numbers. It now meets at K. of P. hall, second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month. President, H. A. Croft; financier, W. H. First; recorder, C. J. First.

*Degree of Honor No. 14, A. O. U. W.*, meets at K. of P. hall the second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month. Chief of Honor, Mrs. W. A. Holtzworth; recorder and financier, Mrs. W. H. First.

*Contest Council, No. 124, Royal Arcanum*, after various removals, located in Cornplanter lodge room on Seneca street, and now meets in Central Labor hall the second Tuesday and fourth Friday in each month. It was instituted July 18, 1878, by J. H. Wright, D. S. R., with fourteen charter members, and the increase has been steady. This society has continued its useful course and has paid many thousands of dollars to the families of deceased members. The first officers were: C. B. Ansart, regent; I. S. Gibson, V. R.; J. H. Miller, O.; R. H. Mitchell, P. R.; J. B. Berry, secretary; J. C. Wright, treasurer; J. Robertson, C.; J. W. Simpson, chaplain; John Bennett, G.; O. H. Strong, W.; H. McMullen, S. Present officers: Regent, H. L. Reese; V. R., H. L. Seth; collector, E. A. Reese; secretary, W. H. Reid; treasurer, F. E. Wolcott.

*Oil City Lodge, No. 344, B. P. O. E.*, meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the Elks building. Officers: E. R., J. W. Irwin; P. V. R., William G. Kern; loyal knight, J. V. Guthrie; lecturing knight, John C. Conway; esteemed loyal knight, G. W. McNamara; secretary, Cornelius Tyson; treasurer, Charles W. Roess; tyler, J. Wade Osenider. This is a large organization. It does a great deal of charity work and patriotic work.

*Oil City Aerie, No. 383, Fraternal Order of Eagles*, meets the first and third Wednesday evenings of each month at No. 19 Center street. Officers: W. P. P., Samuel A. Sampson; W. P., W. C. McClintock; W. V. P., Welker M. Hondell; secretary, Maurice Splain; treasurer, Thomas P. McGreavy. This society is one of benevolent activities and has large membership among the patriotic.

*Fort Oil City, No. 19, Home Watchmen of America*, meets at Odd Fellows hall the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month. It is an insurance organization with attractive

features. Officers: Com., C. W. McClintock; vice commander, Emily Attleberger; recorder, Josie A. Frye; purser, Mrs. Mary A. Survey.

*The Ivy Club* dates its beginning from 1879. The club was organized as a gentlemen's association with a social life of high ideals. Liquors, gambling or anything unworthy a place in homes of refinement were excluded. A library, piano, card and billiard tables were provided, a well equipped gymnasium was a valuable aid to the rest and recreation needed by men whose business confined them to offices, and whose duties made relaxation of some sort a vital necessity. On May 15, 1879, a charter was obtained, granted to fifty-seven members. The following have filled the office of president: F. C. Fischer, April 7, 1879; C. H. Lay, Jr., July 14, 1879-80-81; W. J. Young, April 3, 1882; Amos Steffee, April 3, 1883; J. M. Reed, April 7, 1884; J. R. Campbell, April 16, 1885-86-87-88-89-90-91-92; C. M. Lamberton, April 3, 1893-94-95; H. McSweeney, April 2, 1896-97; F. O. Wilson, April 1, 1898-99; Eugene Liebel, April 2, 1900; J. C. Reynolds, March 29, 1901; W. H. Corrin, April 2, 1902-03; W. B. James, March 30, 1904-05; E. J. Curran, March 29, 1906-07; Harvey Fritz, April 3, 1908; J. H. Foquet, April 5, 1909; C. A. McLouth, April 4, 1910-11-12; R. P. Byles, April 7, 1913-14; A. V. Lammers, April 5, 1915-16-17-18. The club has not departed from its original high standards, and to-day is an organization of which the city is proud. Its present quarters in the Ivy Club block, Nos. 31-39 Seneca street, are finely adapted to the intellectual and social needs of the members.

*Branch No. 5, Catholic Mutual Benefit Association*, was organized as Branch No. 28 July 25, 1878, with P. D. Corrigan president; W. A. Maloney and B. Sands, as first and second vice presidents, and the following fellow officers: John Keating, T.; J. H. Osenbeck, R. S.; Patrick Healey, F. S.; Thomas Carroll, S. D.; Cornelius Breen, M. After the organization by District Deputy Friedman the presiding officers to 1888 were: R. H. Craig, December, 1878; M. Geary, 1879; William Dwyer, 1880; M. T. Collins, 1881; P. Kaufman, 1882; H. Stillpflug, 1883; John E. Wallace, 1884; B. McSteen, 1885; W. Dwyer, 1886; Andrew Pfhendler, 1887; Thomas Sands, 1888. These were followed by efficient men who carried on the growing work successfully. To-day the officers are as follows: Spiritual adviser, Rev. P. J. Sheridan, V. G.; first vice president, Leo Hoehlein; second vice president, Carl B. Lange; recording sec-

etary, W. J. Powers; assistant secretary, F. D. McCue; financial secretary, Alexander Sonoski; treasurer, Thomas J. Walsh.

*Oil City Tent, No. 21, Knights of the Maccabees of the World*, organized Aug. 1, 1886, began with about fifty members. A. Kline, Wade Hampton, Jr., J. H. Fulmer, H. P. Boyd and F. C. Ambrose were among the first commanders. The organization has steadily increased to the present day under very efficient officers. It now meets at Cornplanter hall every Tuesday at 8 p. m. Commander, S. A. Neidich, vice commander, B. W. Myers; R. K., George B. Lane.

*Oil City Review No. 70, Woman's Benefit Association of the Maccabees*. This lodge was chartered in 1888. Its officers in 1918 are: Commander, Mrs. Louise Vickery; record keeper, Mrs. Julia Mason; F. A., Mary J. O'Donnell. This society meets at Latonia hall the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8 p. m.

*The Oil City Medical Club* grew out of a suggestion by Dr. T. C. McCulloch in 1878 for more fraternal opportunities among the city physicians, but an organization was not effected until 1882, when Dr. McCulloch was chosen its first president. It is thought that the following regular physicians embraced the first membership: Drs. T. C. McCulloch, F. F. Davis, J. A. Ritchey, A. F. Coope, T. W. Egbert, W. Forster, J. D. Arters and W. F. Connors. All these and succeeding members have served in turn as presiding officer, and their monthly suppers and original scientific papers have been pleasant and profitable. After the supper, which is a feature of the evening, and is held at the "City Hotel," the meeting adjourns to some physician's office. This organization has continued until the present to keep its meetings full of interest and inspiration. Its membership includes all or most of the physicians of the city. Its officers are: President, J. R. Sharp, M. D.; vice president, J. W. Dorworth, M. D.; secretary and treasurer, F. W. Summerville, M. D.

*Sons of Veterans* were organized at Oil City in 1884. Two camps were formed. The North Side. *Major N. Payne Camp, No. 38*, had the following officers: Captain, Edward O'Flarety; first lieutenant, Charles Ross; second lieutenant, W. J. Anderson, while those of *E. A. Madison Camp, No. 39*, on the South Side, were: Captain, G. C. Rickards; first lieutenant, John Hankay. Both camps were afterward consolidated under the name of *Edwin W. Bettes Camp, No. 38*. In April, 1888, it removed from Steele's hall to the G. A. R.

hall on Seneca street. The organization still lives, now reorganized as *Maj. J. B. Maitland Camp, No. 106* (Pennsylvania Division), and meets at Cornplanter hall the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Its officers are: Commander, William H. Shaner; secretary and treasurer, Harold L. Pierce.

*Oil City Division, No. 163, Order of Railway Conductors*, held meetings regularly in the G. A. R. hall, on Center street, beginning Jan. 4, 1885, under the following chief conductors: J. M. Richards, 1885-87; J. C. Burns, 1888, and S. Church, 1889. The charter members were J. M. Richards, S. Church, T. W. Evans, James Edwards, R. Fulton, J. C. Walsh, W. C. Downey, J. Shaughnessey, A. W. Dickinson, S. E. Stone, M. Liddy, C. E. Burr, J. C. Burns, R. E. Gifford, J. C. Holmes. At present this order meets at the Oil City National Bank hall on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, at 2 p. m. C. C., J. C. Walsh; secretary and treasurer, G. R. Holtzman; local chairman, W. C. Tarr.

*Oil Creek Lodge, No. 105, Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen*, was chartered with twenty members June 9, 1885. J. O. Tyler was chosen master, and his associate officers were: John Carroll, V. M.; H. G. Bambrick, S.; Joseph Orr, F.; and trustees J. W. Knee, George Riley and Thomas Connor. They had a prosperous career and a membership of twenty-eight. Early masters were: J. O. Tyler, August, 1885; John Carroll, August, 1886; T. Coughlin, August, 1887; P. Callahan, August, 1888. Now (1918) the Brotherhood meets at No. 14 Seneca street the fourth Sunday of each month, and second Friday of each month. President, John F. Hughes; vice president, Walter G. Hanna; secretary, Frank J. Deegan; treasurer, V. Van Dresser.

*Oil Creek Division, No. 173, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers*, although originally composed of Western New York and Pennsylvania engineers, has members on all the Oil City roads, having been organized Nov. 23, 1873, by withdrawals from the Erie and Meadville Divisions. The first officers were: John A. Stout, chief engineer; Peter Crahan, first engineer; P. W. Geary, second engineer; M. T. Connor, first assistant engineer; John Clark, second, and M. Drohan, third, assistant engineers; W. F. Kelly, guide, and Anson Albee, chaplain. They quietly prospered in their meetings and increased under their successive chief engineers. The earlier incumbents of that office were: J. A. Stout, 1874; W. F. Kelley, 1875; Peter Crahan, 1876-77; M. Moriarty, 1878; George Frazine, 1879; Joseph

Kidd, 1880; Peter Crahan, 1881; P. W. Geary, 1882; Samuel Weigle, 1883; John Stapleton, 1884-85; Peter Crahan, 1886; William Agnew, 1887. The lodge now (1918) meets at the Oil City Bank building hall, on the first and third Sundays of each month, at 3:30 p. m. Officers: C. C., C. S. Wheelock; secretary and treasurer, J. A. Kennedy.

*Oil City Division, No. 67, Grand International Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers*, meets at Central Labor Council hall the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, at 3 p. m. President, Mrs. J. C. Brannon; vice president, John Smith; secretary, James Smith; treasurer, W. G. Cross.

*Oil City Circle, No. 24, Protected Home Circle*, is a society for insurance purposes, for both sexes. It was formed Oct. 28, 1887, by Supreme Deputies Byard and Stratton, with fifty-five members and the following officers: Past president, Lewis Miller; president, C. B. Simmons; vice president, B. Baer; guardian, S. W. Sellew; secretary, C. G. Strance; accountant, W. G. Hill; treasurer, Daniel Clark; chaplain, Rev. J. D. Smith; guide, Curtis P. Swisher; companion, Miss A. S. Barr; porter, H. P. Oieser; watchman, O. W. Baker. A short time after their institution in Oil City lodge room (I. O. O. F.) they took permanent quarters in the much used Cornplanter lodge room. This society now meets at Latonia hall every Friday at 8 p. m. It has prospered steadily. Mr. Simmons was succeeded as president by John Macdougall and W. E. Darrow, and the present officers are: President, Mrs. T. Benton; vice president and treasurer, Mrs. J. Conger; secretary, Mrs. C. Black.

*The Belles Lettres Club* was organized in 1888 and incorporated in 1892. Its object was the study of literature and the founding and maintaining of a public library. The charter members were: Mrs. C. A. Babcock, Mrs. W. J. Hulings, Mrs. W. H. Wise, Mrs. W. R. Barr, Miss Clara Hartwell, Mrs. C. F. Hartwell, Mrs. B. F. Brundred, Mrs. T. R. Cowell, Mrs. George Parker, Mrs. N. F. Clark, Mrs. A. T. Hyde, Mrs. Sarah Crosier. Mrs. C. A. Babcock was the president for ten years. This enthusiastic body of women in a few years had gathered over six thousand volumes of valuable books, won a place in the city which made work easy and obtained a gift of forty thousand dollars from Andrew Carnegie. The library is administered by a body composed of members of the city council, with two representatives from the club. The city appropriates three thousand dollars yearly for the

maintenance of the library. The club has a finely equipped room on the second floor of the beautiful building and contributes annually from its income a sum used in the purchase of books. The present officers are: President, Mrs. E. C. Beatty; first vice president, Mrs. H. M. Nichols; second vice president, Mrs. D. J. Bolton; secretary, Mrs. W. T. Ebersole; treasurer, Mrs. Frank C. Wardwell; Federation secretary, Mrs. Julius Dreyfuss; auditor, Mrs. Meade S. Gates. Following is the list of past presidents: 1888-1898, Mrs. C. A. Babcock; 1898-99, Mrs. C. F. Hartwell (now deceased); 1899-1901, Mrs. J. P. Strayer; 1901-1903, Mrs. P. M. Speer; 1903-1905, Mrs. S. W. McCuen; 1905-1907, Mrs. Kenton Chickering; 1907-1908, Mrs. J. M. Reed; 1908-1909, Mrs. H. M. Nichols (now deceased); 1909-1911, Mrs. E. B. Young; 1911-1913, Mrs. W. R. Barr; 1913-1915, Mrs. G. W. Magee; 1915-1917, Mrs. C. A. McLouth (now deceased); 1917-1919, Mrs. E. C. Beatty.

*Oil City Library Association*.—When the Carnegie library was an assured fact a number of prominent citizens formed a library association. Its purpose is to assist the library in every practical way. It contributes money and has representation on the library commission. The present officers are: President, E. R. Boyle; secretary, T. B. Judge; treasurer, W. W. Stevens.

*Carnegie Library Commission* meets at the Carnegie Library the first Monday of each month. Officials: President, S. Y. Ramage; vice president, D. K. Johnson; secretary, Mrs. M. W. Easton; treasurer, Mrs. Thomas B. Judge; commissioners elected by council, M. W. Easton, A. W. Kinney, Mayor William Agnew; elected by library association, Edward R. Boyle, T. B. Judge; elected by the Belles Lettres Club, Mrs. E. C. Beatty, Mrs. J. E. Reilly.

*The Venango Club*, whose quarters are at No. 316 West First St., meets the third Tuesday of each month; annual meeting, third Monday of October. The meeting place of this organization is popular with its members and their friends. The house which belongs to the club is one of the handsome buildings of the city. Parties are given by members and lunches are served to members. During the war this organization provided lunches put up in most attractive form for every soldier who left the city. Every draftee, no matter where he came from, was remembered, the total number supplied being over a thousand. A feature of each lunch was half a roasted chicken.

The first officers of the Venango Club were:

President, S. Y. Romage; vice president, B. F. Brundred; treasurer, H. M. Nichols; secretary, G. C. Delleker; directors, S. Y. Ramage, C. M. Lamberton, J. A. Fawcett, J. C. Reynolds, B. F. Brundred, J. B. Crawford, L. T. Ford, P. M. Speer, H. I. Beers. The present officers are: President, C. M. Lamberton; vice president, A. R. Smart; secretary and treasurer, J. Palmer Blackford; directors, C. M. Lamberton, James A. Fawcett, E. W. Evans, A. R. Moran, R. A. Browne, George H. Torrey, Louis Walz, W. W. Splane, A. R. Smart.

*Oil City Camp, No. 5887, Modern Woodmen of the World*, meets the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month. Consul, S. S. Bickel; advisor, S. H. Sampson; banker, C. A. English; clerk, I. R. Grimm. This is an insurance organization. There are a large number of camps.

*Oil City Council, No. 385, Knights of Columbus*, has club rooms in the Lynch building, No. 14 Seneca street, and meets the second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month. Officers: G. K., M. A. Brewster; D. G. K., James Burton; financial secretary, George M. Powell; recording secretary, Burdell Bower; chancellor, W. O. Walker; treasurer, Charles J. Clifford. This council was organized on May 13, 1899, and is a large and prosperous organization. It has done much work along patriotic lines. The council has sustained its workers at the front who were relieving suffering and has helped to make that splendid record abroad, which the order has gained. The social functions are always notable.

*Court of St. Rita, No. 242, Daughters of Isabella*, meets in the Lynch block the first and third Wednesdays of each month. G. R., Mary A. Dwyer; V. G. R., Mary Shannahan; historian, Elizabeth Martin; treasurer, Mabel Neuland; financial secretary, Rose McCue. This court was organized in 1915 and the years have seen a steady growth in numbers and good works.

*Putnam King Chapter, No. 1091, N. S. D. A. R.*, has the following officers: Mrs. Geo. N. Reed, regent; Mrs. B. F. Brundred, first vice regent; Mrs. C. A. Babcock, second vice regent; Mrs. Clara Pundt, treasurer; Mrs. Dewey Bolton, secretary; Mrs. J. H. Reilly, registrar; Mrs. William Lane, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. E. Robinson, Mrs. J. B. Berry, Mrs. William M. Parker, directors. This organization has done wonderful patriotic work. It has the distinction of having adopted the first French orphan in Venango county, two years ago. This year it has taken

ten French orphans. It has been honored by having one of its members, Miss Lois Brundred, in the service of the Red Cross Canteen; she has served for two years, and was one of two members of this canteen who were sent with the army of occupation into Coblenz.

The charter members of the Chapter were: Mrs. H. M. Nicholls, Mrs. Blanche Chevelier, Mrs. W. H. Wise, Mrs. J. B. Berry, Miss Florence Berry, Mrs. J. H. Evans, Mrs. C. A. Babcock, Mrs. B. F. Brundred, Mrs. Gustave Roess, Mrs. Alice Ritchey, Miss Rena Ritchey, Mrs. E. V. D. Selden, Mrs. W. H. Lane.

*The Children's Aid Society of Venango County* has the following officers: President, Mrs. F. W. Hays; vice president, Mrs. H. G. McKnight; secretary, Mrs. Ida Bookhammer; treasurer, Mrs. Howard Wood. This institution owns a fine home on Harriot avenue. It receives a small amount annually from the State, but it is sustained mostly by voluntary contributions. Its record is one for which the county has reason to rejoice. Its works of practical benevolence are not to be estimated by the casual observer. But those who know of the good accomplished, and of the devoted service of the women who form the membership of the society, are its enthusiastic supporters.

Both Oil City and Franklin have numerous social and study clubs. In Oil City the *Schubert Club* and the *Tuesday Musicales* not only seek to improve themselves but to give pleasure to others by bringing first-class musicians to the city. Franklin does the same through its *Cadmon Club*. An art club with membership divided between the two cities is a commendable institution. *The Woman's Club* of Franklin and the *Improvement Club* of Oil City are vigorous literary organizations. *The Athena Club* of Oil City and the *Twentieth Century Club* are important and do fine work, both literary and historical.

*Salvation Army* of Oil City and Franklin. (E. W. B.)—"Be good and all will be well," said the impoverished and widowed mother of General Booth. She said it all the time and under the most trying circumstances. Her faith never failed. The boy who heard, and the man who followed after, never claimed that he was always good, or that he even knew always what good was, but that immortal sentence founded the Salvation Army. No other rock was needed. The curious eyes of youth, the seeking eyes of young manhood, and the failing sight of the old man, saw those words as a light on the path before him. To the son of this woman the question came with personal

force. How were people to be helped to this goodness that shed evil from the back and that gave at least a glimmer of light in the darkest hour? The church had its place and mission—how far it failed or how far it fulfilled its appointed duties did not matter; the fact was clear that many of those who needed help to be good were not receiving it. To the stately cathedral and the beautiful chapel, to the vineclad and secluded rectory, few absolute derelicts presented themselves.

The eyes of the dreaming Booth saw that within the most apparently depraved some spark of the divine fire lingered and might with gentle breath be made to flame out and cleanse the life. No one is so supremely practical as the dreamer when he gets to his task of making dreams come true. All the vigor of a strong nature with an invincible purpose was given to the matter of working out some methods of help and getting together helpers who understood and accepted the need and the possibility, even the probability, of carrying on the new idea and in a new sense making the Word flesh. The simplicity of the belief which General Booth advocated is undoubtedly its strong tower. To turn from sin, to make restitution if possible, to live in harmony with Christ's precepts and principles, has all religion wrapped within itself. From this small beginning has grown a giant plant whose shade has fallen upon bowed heads at life's most torrid, scorching hour; it has cooled the brow of the daughters of shame, and hidden with mercy the downcast and forsaken. The social institutions that have developed under its system of work now number over nine hundred and sixty-four.

With this heritage of high endeavor came the pioneers to Oil City and Franklin. At first the singing at street corners attracted a smiling sort of attention, which soon developed into the listening of eager ears. The army of occupation had come to stay and is still here, doing splendid work. Oil City's needs made large and permanent quarters necessary and barracks were built and furnished by a generous people. It was during the stay of Ensign and Mrs. Macmillan that the building was erected on Elm street. The rooms were furnished by the churches, usually by the Aid Societies. When all was nearly complete a fund to purchase chairs for the audience room was needed. So much had been given that Mr. and Mrs. Macmillan felt unable to ask for more. But one morning Mrs. Macmillan, who believed in prayer, knelt down in her room alone and made a vow to ask a contribution of

the first person she should meet when she went out. She asked the Lord to help her. She put on that plain but most becoming bonnet and went over to Seneca street. The first person, and the only one at the moment whom she saw, was Mr. George Lewis. She did not know him, and for a brief moment hesitated, but there was her vow and her prayer to help. She told Mr. Lewis in a few words of the need. He listened, as he always did to stories of lacks and wants. "Come over to my office," he said. Mrs. Macmillan followed. When she opened the folded check which he had written she found to her amazement that it was for three hundred dollars. She laughed when she told the story to her friends, for she said it took her only about three minutes to run through the livery barn between Seneca and Elm streets to the headquarters where she found her husband and told the wonderful answer to prayer. The men and women who have carried on the work in the two cities have been of fine character, and the ministers of all denominations seek their aid in cases where it seems best to use the system of the Army rather than that of the church. It would take the pen of a Wells to tell appropriately the story of the work of this organization. Men have been reclaimed and started on the way to decency. Unwelcome babies have been placed in homes where the blighting truth will never be told about or to them. Women have been taught not only to be good but how to be good cooks as an aid to reformation. Franklin has not as yet needed a large building, but soon will give all necessary equipment for a most respected and highly valued work.

The Army in Oil City has Ensign Harry Heinsbach in charge. The meetings include the usual religious services and at present a soldiers' meeting.

The Franklin Army is in charge of Ensign A. J. Reese. It also has a soldiers' meeting and includes in its oversight and care the prisoners in the county jail. In fact, this department is one of the important features of the work.

*Wanango Country Club.*—This organization was formed in 1913. Its membership is composed of Oil City and Franklin people, and the location is at Reno, midway between the two cities. One hundred and twenty-one acres of land belong to the club and give it a distinction not often enjoyed by clubs remote from large cities. The landscape is diversified, with appeals to every taste. A fine golf course and tennis courts provide opportunities for

outside sports, while the large main room furnishes ample space for dancing and for card tables. Dining rooms, lockers, wide porches, bowling alleys and billiard rooms are provided. The Wanango Club has promoted good feeling between the two cities of the county and it is an institution of which its members are proud. Forty-one members entered the service of the United States and there has been throughout the trying period a patriotic spirit in all that has been undertaken. The first officers were: President, S. Y. Ramage; vice presidents, C. H. Lay, J. J. Sheasley; secretary, R. P. Birtcil; treasurer, H. H. James. The officers for 1919 are: President, S. Y. Ramage; vice president, C. C. Steinbrenner; second vice president, J. J. Sheasley; treasurer, H. H. James; secretary, R. P. Birtcil.

#### EMLENTON

*Allegheny Valley Lodge, No. 552, F. and A. M.*, was instituted Dec. 6, 1877. The original officers were: J. V. Patton, W. M.; J. S. Young, S. W.; J. W. Rowland, J. W. Present officers: C. C. King, W. M.; R. H. Perrine, S. W.; W. E. Lutz, J. W.; M. K. Block, secretary; H. J. Crawford, treasurer.

*The Knights of the Maccabees* organized a Tent at Emleton Nov. 10, 1889. The first officers were: P. Sr. Kt. Com., A. R. Newton; Com., J. J. Nelson; Lt. Com., S. M. Turk; R. K., W. E. Shannon; F. R., A. R. Newton; prelate, S. M. Bailey; sergeant, T. M. Agnew; physician, E. A. Kuhns; M. at A., Frank Morrison; 1st M. of G., J. A. Shannon; 2d M. of G., Reuben Buck; sentinel, T. J. Perrine; picket, P. Sullinger. Present officers: Past Com., J. C. Williams; Com., O. D. Reed; Lt. Com., D. M. Long; R. K., L. Snyder; F. R., L. Snyder; prelate, L. F. Beigler; physician, W. G. Gilmore; sergeant, J. I. Wetzel; M. of A., Louis E. Wiseman; 1st M. of G., Charles Hepler; 2d M. of G., S. N. Young; sentinel, B. Murphy; picket, John Black. Trustees: J. C. Williams, H. Shreffler, S. G. Thompson.

*Camp No. 6143, Modern Woodmen of America*, was organized Jan. 30, 1900. Its first officers were: C. H. Hatton, consul; S. J. Williams, clerk. The present officers are: W. D. Gerwick, consul; W. L. Cosper, advisor; C. E. Black, banker; H. O. Mahood, clerk.

*Emleton Lodge, No. 644, I. O. O. F.*, was established Aug. 28, 1868. The original officers were: James Fowler, N. G.; James Col-

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

gin, V. G.; B. F. Hamilton, secretary; Elias Weidel, treasurer. Present officers: W. C. Heeter, N. G.; W. E. Lutz, V. G.; H. O. Mahood, secretary; Fred Roschy, treasurer.

## RENO

*Reno Union, No. 156, Equitable Aid Union,* was instituted May 27, 1889, with George E. Stock, president; G. W. Connor, vice president; Emma Eaton, secretary; James Fitzgerald, treasurer. This Union has been disbanded.

## POLK

*Waterloo Lodge, No. 680, I. O. O. F.,* was organized April 29, 1886, with 27 charter members. The first officers were: J. B. Marshall, N. G.; A. D. Dean, V. G. The lodge made commendable progress, the record of 1889 showing fifty-six active members, and the lodge is still actively alive with largely increased membership, its growth keeping pace with that of the borough. Thursday is the meeting night. M. S. McKinley, of Polk, is the present secretary of Waterloo Lodge.

## CHAPMANVILLE

*Plum Tent, No. 52, Knights of the Macca-bees,* was instituted Jan. 16, 1888, with Thomas H. Richey, P. S. K. C.; William F. Whitman, S. K. C.; George Grove, S. K. L. C.; Frank Gehr, S. K. R. H.; John W. Arters, S. K. F. T. This lodge has passed away.

## ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP

*Rockland Lodge, No. 952, I. O. O. F.,* has a charter bearing date Sept. 27, 1877. Its original officers were: D. R. Lusher, N. G.; J. Witherup, V. G.; J. B. Forker, secretary; J. B. Glenn, A. S.; W. B. Gilger, treasurer. Rockland Lodge is still running strong. The secretary is Arthur J. Morrow, of Pittsville. Meeting night, Saturday.

## SENECA

*Alpine Tent, No. 25, Knights of the Macca-bees,* was chartered with twenty-three members Dec. 5, 1885. There are now (1918) seventy-five members, with the following officers: W. P. French, commander; E. G. McKinney, lieutenant commander; W. P. Ferringier, R. K.; C. A. Kinney, prelate. •

## SALINA

*Cranberry Lodge, No. 78, K. O. T. M.,* John Rembold, R. K. This lodge is still alive and keeps in touch with the Grand Lodge, but is not working. The membership, which is small, will perhaps affiliate with Lodge No. 25, which is near by.

## ROUSEVILLE

*Fraternal Lodge, No. 483, R. and A. M.,* was organized Feb. 1, 1871. The officers elected were: C. L. Stowell, W. M.; William Irish, S. W.; C. C. Camp, J. W.; R. C. Beveridge, secretary; James Tyson, treasurer. The lodge now owns a fine property, consisting of a fine lot on Main street upon which is the Masonic Temple. The officers for 1918 are as follows: Frank M. Bowers, W. M.; Robert R. Corlett, S. W.; William E. Arthurs, J. W.; William Cromack, treasurer; Levi H. Irwin, secretary.

Rouseville has an active chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

*Petroleum Council, No. 175, Royal Arcanum,* was organized at Petroleum Center Oct. 3, 1878, and removed to Rouseville March 20, 1879. The first officers were: George B. Lord, T. R.; Samuel R. Paist, R.; Samuel D. Kepler, V. R.; C. R. Cobb, O.; A. A. Stewart, treasurer; S. J. Murphy, secretary; R. B. Cogan, collector; Benjamin McKay, W. The officers of 1918 are: H. T. Rose, Jr., regent; E. M. McCandless, V. R.; D. J. Cavanaugh, P. K.; T. F. Cavanaugh, secretary; F. L. Fry, collector; S. M. Moyer, G.; W. W. Arthurs, S.

*Valley Camp, No. 6051, Modern Woodmen of America,* was instituted in April, 1899. Officers at present: Councillor, D. J. Cavanaugh; advisor, C. H. Ackerman; clerk, F. L. Fry; banker, H. G. McCombs; escort, S. M. Moyer; secretary, T. F. Cavanaugh.

## DEMPSEYTOWN

*Dempseytown Lodge, No. 632, I. O. O. F.,* was organized May 20, 1868. The first officers were: B. F. Mark, N. G.; R. B. Neely, V. G.; George K. Webber, secretary; George Fuller, assistant secretary; Jonas Webber, treasurer. The secretary for 1918 is F. L. Thompson, Franklin R. F. D. No. 2. Meeting night, Saturday.

*Dempseytown Lodge, No. 171, A. O. U. W.,* was instituted March 30, 1880. The first officers were: D. W. Weikal, P. M. W.; R. C.

Duncan, M. W.; Lewis Pritchard, G. F.; T. J. Kimes, O.; Robert Reed, recorder; Freeman Dyson, financier; N. C. Henderson, receiver; E. P. Foster, G.; F. A. McClintock, I. W.; P. S. Cauvel, O. W. The lodge is no longer active.

#### COOPERSTOWN

*Cooperstown Lodge, No. 130, A. O. U. W.*, was organized March 1, 1878. The first officers were: R. S. Haslet, P. M. W.; F. M. Allison, M. W.; L. L. Ray, G. J.; Thomas Minium, O.; Thomas L. Shirley, R.; Charles Keas, receiver. This organization disbanded a number of years ago.

*Cooperstown Grange, Patrons of Husbandry*, organized March 30, 1874, with thirty members. It was the first in Venango County. The officers were: T. S. Strohecker, M.; Edward Samuel, O.; W. H. Shaw, L.; Thomas Rogers, S.; J. G. Bradley, A. S., and W. S. Strohecker. This organization now forms a part of Sugar Creek Grange.

*Albert H. Jackson Post, No. 299, G. A. R.*, was mustered in Jan. 9, 1883, with the following comrades as members: T. S. Strohecker, A. M. Beatty, A. Frazier, H. W. Hoffman, R. Blanchard, W. H. Slonaker, G. N. Crodle, John Gurney, Daniel Jones, J. S. Gates, Nicholas Ribb, J. B. Galbraith, Jonathan Wygant, R. I. McClellan, David Ray, Joseph Mason, R. W. Davison, W. G. Hale, George Bowman, L. Shields, John Jackson, R. B. Rogers, J. S. Davidson, James Mitchell, H. A. Rifenberg, James K. Hays, L. E. McFadden, John Wygant, George Ghearing, J. Boals, Jr., J. D. Snyder, A. W. Robertson, S. S. Stearns, P. Hinman, S. D. Hasson, E. Samuel, H. M. Adams, David Greenawalt, E. K. Bortz, C. H. Moore, D. S. Sutton, William McElhinney, J. Foster, Thomas Beatty, Justus Smith, W. A. McKay, R. E. Van Natten, G. W. Grove. Though its members are greatly diminished, the remaining hearts still glow with love for the old flag.

*Cooperstown Lodge, No. 956, I. O. O. F.*, was formed April 8, 1887. R. E. VanNatten was N. G.; H. W. Hoffman, V. G.; C. W. Karns, secretary; R. D. Reynolds, assistant, secretary; A. P. Williams, treasurer. This lodge, like all others of this order established in the county, is still at work. In 1918 the secretary is B. T. Grove, Cooperstown. Wednesday is their meeting night.

#### PLEASANTVILLE

*Seneca Lodge, No. 519, I. O. O. F.*, was instituted May 18, 1855. Andrew Burrows be-

came N. G.; John Benedict, V. G.; D. W. Henderson, secretary; B. F. Lyons, treasurer. A reorganization under the original name and number was made in 1874, and a new charter was granted March 2d of that year to F. Merrick, N. G.; Samuel Hatch, V. G.; H. H. Locke, secretary; E. R. Beebe, treasurer. In 1918 this lodge is prospering. The night of meeting is Tuesday. The secretary is Fran. O. Rooker, Pleasantville.

*Pleasantville Lodge, No. 501, F. and A. M.*, was organized Nov. 22, 1871. Officers: George Sheffield, W. M.; J. E. Haskell, S. W.; L. L. Benedict, J. W.; E. D. Dodge, secretary; J. A. Willoughby, treasurer. The lodge has since disbanded and surrendered its charter.

*Eureka Council, No. 133, R. A.*, was organized May 3, 1880. The charter members were: J. A. Johnson, A. P. Pope, W. W. Pennell, J. A. Pickett, C. W. Brigham, R. D. Stoeltzing, W. White, M. R. Williams, I. Doolittle, H. H. Noyes, J. C. Goal, David Fleming, R. Foggan, J. J. Goodman, J. McLachlan, C. G. Kingman. This lodge is no longer active.

*Aaron Benedict Post, No. 429, G. A. R.*, was mustered April 24, 1884. The first members were: Isaac Doolittle, H. J. Hopkins, W. F. House, Casper Schott, John Walbridge, Henry Dykeman, L. B. Main, G. W. Smith, James Dack, L. L. Shattuck, J. M. August, W. Lyons, H. Ives, R. J. Hopkins, R. Grant, Samuel Holmes, J. H. Pennell, J. E. Sorrell, George Keyes, Aubrey Porter, Blosser Post, Harrison Bright, Thomas Anderson, Frederick Propheter, Charles E. Merritt, James T. Reed, John Garry.

#### GRANGES OF VENANGO COUNTY

The following list of the Granges of the county, and their officers for 1918, is furnished by Mr. James L. Wilbur, of Pleasantville, who, as an extensive oil producer and land owner, has an interest in the productions of the surface, and in the rocks below:

*Sugar Creek Grange*, oldest in the county. Lawrence Goodwin, master, Diamond; Guy Rodgers, secretary, Cooperstown.

*Pleasantville Grange*, Charles E. Skinner, master, Pleasantville; Mrs. Fred White, secretary, Pleasantville.

*Oakland Grange*, John C. Kean, master, Franklin, Route No. 2; Mrs. F. F. Weber, secretary, Cooperstown.

*Cherrytree Grange*, C. S. Miller, master, Titusville, Route No. 4; Clare Whitney, secretary, Titusville, Route No. 4.

*Diamond Grange*, Richard Tracy, master, Diamond; Susan Chesney, secretary, Diamond.

*Canal Grange*, C. O. Maurer, master, Utica; O. C. Sigworth, secretary, Franklin, Route No. 4.

*Rockland Grange*, C. A. Oneel, master, Emlenton; Gertrude Felt, secretary, Rockland.

*Richland Grange*, A. E. Retts, master, Emlenton; G. S. Chadman, secretary, Lamartine.

*Cranberry Grange*, I. J. Osmer, master, Cranberry; John Smith, secretary, Seneca.

*Pinegrove Grange*, D. H. Morrison, master, Van; A. I. Stone, secretary, Van.

An outstanding feature of the Granges is that they are located in the midst of good agricultural sections of the county. They are drawing the attention of the land owner to the surface, and encouraging him to work there.

Each grange is the center of a farmers' club, or of a number of such clubs, each individual member studying his soil to determine the best crops to grow the fertilizers to use, the necessary treatment to secure the desired results. The community plan of sowing or planting now prevails to a greater extent than is generally known. Marketing is also a community idea; the best markets are known to

the clubs. Fertilizers are bought by good-sized communities at once, instead of by the lone farmer who used to come from the town with his in a paper sack. Into some townships, lime, which is needed in a number of them, comes by train-loads and is hauled home in the farm wagons. Nitrates for a large group are bought by the ton and distributed from a central point. Horticulture is receiving attention, to the betterment of the apple crop, of plums, cherries and other fruits. Some apple growers this year harvested from one thousand to fourteen hundred bushels of hand-picked, selected fruit—only a beginning of what will be. Stock raising, including swine, sheep and poultry, is also receiving more attention, not only resulting in better stock, but making the land more productive yearly—one of the very few lines of business in which the plant making profits makes itself more valuable. To summarize, the grange group or community idea has helped the farmers to greater production of food, and has therefore contributed to the "healing of the nations."

## CHAPTER XXI

### MILITARY HISTORY

REVOLUTIONARY VETERANS AMONG THE SETTLERS—WAR OF 1812—EARLY MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS—THE MEXICAN WAR—THE CIVIL WAR—REGIMENTAL SKETCHES AND COMPANY ROSTERS—SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—LATEST MILITARY ACTIVITIES—112TH UNITED STATES INFANTRY—HONOR ROLL, OIL CITY—FRANKLIN DISTRICT LIST—OIL CITY DISTRICT LIST—CASUALTY LISTS—AT THE FRONT—PENNSYLVANIA RESERVE MILITIA—AMERICAN RED CROSS—OTHER WAR ACTIVITIES

The military history of Venango county is to the student like a tale that is told which gains power as it progresses. The annals of this western division of the State are full of vital interest. Though its first white settler had not begun life in this wilderness until after the Revolutionary war was ended, those who came later and had been trained in the university of a successful war have left an immortal impress upon the land they reclaimed and the ideals they uplifted. If it were possible to follow one of these lives through the days of labor and thought in this new country it would typify the life of all; but few authentic stories are recorded of the men who were real sons of the American Revolution and the worthy women

who shared the hardships and the joys also inseparable from the work of subduing the wilds. They can be judged only by the ultimate success of the united efforts of their husbands, fathers and brothers. True daughters of the Revolution, they spun and wove, bore children, and made homes happy in a new world.

#### REVOLUTIONARY VETERANS AMONG THE SETTLERS

George Power, the first man to make a permanent place for himself in this county, had been a commissary in the United States army. He had served at Vincennes, Fort Wash-

ton, and at Fort Franklin. He was most active apparently during the days when the Americans took possession of the British posts. He was born in Maryland April 10, 1762, and died April 2, 1845. Other men who are known to have been in the Revolutionary war, and who came to Venango county to make homes, are the following: Hugh Hasson, who removed from New London, Chester Co., Pa., to Canal township in 1799, where he resided until his death in 1815. James G. Heron, who came to Franklin prior to 1800, was one of the opulent citizens of that village in its early years, was a member of the first board of county commissioners and one of the first associate judges; originally from New Jersey, upon the formation of Col. Moses Hazen's regiment, known as Congress' Own, because not attached to the quota of any particular State, he became a lieutenant and was subsequently promoted to a captaincy; was taken prisoner Aug. 23, 1777, and exchanged, after which it is probable that he served to the end of the war; his death occurred Dec. 30, 1809. Joseph Breed, whose family founded Breedtown, came from Stonington, Conn., in 1818, and died Jan. 23, 1839, aged eighty-two years. Francis Carter, born in Ireland, was a soldier in service at Pittsburgh, Franklin and Erie; in 1803 he left Sugar creek (where he first settled in 1797) and built one of the first houses in what is now Dempseytown; the date of his death is uncertain, but he lived to an honored old age. William Cooper, the founder of Cooperstown, was a native of eastern Pennsylvania, came to Venango county in 1797, and built the first mill on Sugar creek; he lived to be sixty-six years old, and his grave is in the cemetery of the old Methodist Church in the borough of Cooperstown. Philip Ghost, who had served as major in the Continental army, lived for many years in Venango; he was a native of Germany. David Dunham, from Fabius, N. Y., located near Pleasantville where he bought land. William Brown, from New York, settled in French Creek township in 1813; in 1820 he went to Canal and kept a much patronized inn at Hannaville, dying in 1846. Aspinwall Cornwell came to Allegheny township from New York City in 1819 and spent the rest of his life there. Michael Hare, a renowned school teacher of Oakland township, was born in Ireland, but liked this country so well that he lived to the age of one hundred years, eight months, twenty-three days, dying in Erie county in 1843. John Philip Houser, the first settler at the mouth of Sandy creek, was a German by birth, and came here from

Lancaster county; afterward he was ferryman at Franklin. Seth Jewel first improved the site of the borough of Polk, settling there about the beginning of the present century. Philip Kees, a native German, came to Oakland township in 1805 and subsequently removed to a point on the Monongahela river, twenty miles above Pittsburgh, where he died. Samuel Lindsay, the first settler at the mouth of East Sandy creek in Cranberry township, afterward crossed the river into Victory, and at a later date removed to Meigs county, Ohio; he was a man of immense physical strength. Samuel Lovett resided for a time in Cherrytree at an early date, but removed to Crawford county before his death. Patrick Manson, a native of Ireland, settled in Sandy Creek township in 1797, lived to a ripe old age, and was buried with the honors of war by the local militia in the old Franklin cemetery. John McCalmont, born in County Armagh, Ireland, Jan. 11, 1750, came to America in 1766 and served through the war; in 1803 he settled in Sugar Creek township, died Aug. 3, 1832, and is buried in the United Presbyterian graveyard at Plumer. James McCurdy was an early settler in the vicinity of Sugar Creek Memorial church, Jackson township. Henry Myers was a pioneer of Richland, and built several of the first mills in that part of the county. Samuel Proper, thought to have been the second settler in Plum township, came from Schoharie county, N. Y., in 1801. Matthew Riddle, a native of Ireland, settled in Clinton township in 1796. David Russell came to Scrubgrass township in 1799. Charles Stevenson, born in Scotland, lived for some years in Cherrytree township. John Sullinger settled in Rockland in 1813. Tradition gives some other names, but no facts can be ascertained concerning those who bore them.

#### WAR OF 1812

The 18th of June, 1812, seemed to dawn as a day of fate for this nation. War loomed large upon the horizon. The formal declaration of war stirred every American, and northwestern Pennsylvania began to realize as never before how near a neighbor she had in Canada, nor how loyal that colony was to her mother. An invasion of this country from Canada seemed a highly probable event of the future. To-day it is difficult to realize that once this nation feared one beside whom she has now lived for so many years without so much as a solitary guard, or policeman, to defend the border—that purely imaginary line.

The situation was far different in 1812. Buffalo was only a small village, Erie was important by reason of its situation, but with few people to defend it. Its old blockhouse, with no guns or ammunition, was the realization of a pacifist dream, but quite useless as a reality. The Canadian frontier was not only well prepared for any event but had also a navy which gave it protection and made its power dreaded. The Indians were devoted to the British, and there were renegade Americans who joined with them in a willingness to fight. Pennsylvania's State militia was divided in two parts. But after consideration of the circumstances the State was portioned into military divisions. The first brigade of the division which included Venango was commanded by Col. Samuel Dale. It embraced the 132d Regiment of Venango county. John Kelso was brigadier general, and William Clark brigade inspector. There is no record that this regiment was called upon for active service that year.

When Lieut. Oliver Hazard Perry became commander on Lake Erie ship building began in earnest. The need of ship carpenters was great, and men who could do even ordinary work of the kind needed were called upon to help out. Lumber was provided by the forests, but stores of all other kinds had to be brought to the shore, and flatboats came up the Allegheny river from Pittsburgh, and French creek was a busy waterway. Historians note that the unusual high water at this time was one of the most favoring circumstances. The difficulties of the situation engage the imagination. Dangers lurked on every side. The sky alone was free from foes whose dash and daring never failed. The people were kept in a state of excitement by the constant rumors of trouble, and when Colonel Dale received marching orders on the 6th of January the country was alarmed with good reason. But in one month the regiment was discharged, and the militia came marching home, glad no doubt in secret that they had not to face a winter of discontent. The signing of the treaty of peace at Ghent, Belgium, Dec. 24, 1814, was hailed with joy when in February the welcome news came to Venango county. No "scrap of paper" has this treaty proved. The appeal of General Mead to the men of the State and the letter of Oliver Hazard Perry will always possess interest and are given in full.

#### CITIZENS, TO ARMS!

Your state is invaded. The enemy has arrived at Erie, threatening to destroy our navy and the town.

His course, hitherto marked with rapine and fire wherever he touched our shore, must be arrested. The cries of infants and women, of the aged and infirm, the devoted victims of the enemy and his savage allies, call on you for defense and protection. Your honor, your property, your all, require you to march immediately to the scene of action. Arms and ammunition will be furnished to those who have none at the place of rendezvous near to Erie, and every exertion will be made for your subsistence and accommodation. Your service, to be useful, must be rendered immediately. The delay of an hour may be fatal to your country, in securing the enemy in his plunder and favoring his escape.

DAVID MEAD, Major General Sixteenth D. P. M.

Erie, Oct. 22, 1813.

Dear Sir: It may be some satisfaction to you and your deserving corps to be informed that you did not leave your harvest fields in August last for the defense of this place without cause. Since the capture of General Proctor's baggage by General Garrison it is ascertained beyond doubt that an attack was at that time meditated on Erie; and the design was frustrated by the failure of General Vincent to furnish the number of troops promised and deemed necessary. I have the honor to be, dear sir, your obedient servant,

O. H. PERRY.

Major General David Mead, Meadville.

The following roster of the 132d Regiment, Pennsylvania militia, commanded by Lieut. Col. Samuel Dale, was obtained from the secretary of the United States treasury by Lewis F. Watson, of Warren, Pa., member of Congress from this district.

*Field and Staff Officers:* Lieutenant, Samuel Dale; First Major, James Foster; Quartermaster, Andrew Bowman; Sergeant Majors: Elial Farr, John Wilson; Quartermaster Sergeant, George Sutley.

*First Company:* Captain, Henry Neely; Lieutenant, James Thompson; Ensign, Jacob Small; Sergeants, Gideon Richardson, Nicholas Neely, Jacob Hale; Privates, Robert Armstrong, Andrew Ashbaugh, Michael Best, William Crow, George Delo, James Downing, Samuel Fry, Joseph Goucher, Jacob Herrold, Henry Hummel, George Keefer, Jacob Keefer, James Mays, John Mays, Barnhart Martin, Robert Philips, Nathan Phipps, John Potts, Adam Shearer, Jacob Sweitzer, John Sweitzer, John Thummen.

*Second Company:* Captain, Andrew Porter; Lieutenant, James Ritchey; Sergeants, Joseph Porter, Alexander Ritchey; Corporal, John Jolly; Privates, Daniel Ashbaugh, William Crist, William Davis, Jacob Keely, Thomas Kennedy, Adam Kerns, William Kerns, Thomas Kerr, Washington Mays, John McDonald, James McGinnis, Robert McMillan, James Platt, John Platt, Thomas Platt, Alexander Porter, Matthew Porter, Ross Porter,

John Shoup, John Snyder, Jacob Wensel, John Wensel.

*Third Company:* Captain, Daniel McCombs; Lieutenant, Richard Ross; Ensign, Edward Fleming; Sergeants, John Hamilton, William McCombs, Benjamin August, Charles Ingram; Corporals, James Hamilton, Columbus Halyday, James Cary, Alexander Cerreb; Privates, Samuel Beers, John Carter, Miles Coover, David Dempsey, Daniel Fleming, Jr., Barney Griffen, John Hamilton, John Hays, Henry Kinnear, James Kinnear, Neal McFadden, Henry Prather, Andrew Proper, Samuel Proper, William Reed, James Reynolds, Joshua Reynolds, John Rynd, Samuel Small, John Sodorous, William Story, Elijah Stewart, John Tarr, Matthias Tarr.

*Fourth Company:* Captain, John Fetterman; Lieutenant, William Thompson; Ensign, Joseph Bowman; Sergeants, John Brown, John McFadden, Francis Carter, John Mason; Corporals, Jonathan Whitman, John Brookmire, Charles Gordon; Privates, James Alexander, Robert Beatty, Henry Bowman, Samuel Cooper, William Cooper, George Crain, John Deets, Joseph Deets, Daniel Herrington, Alexander Holeman, John Kelly, Darius Mead, Elijah McFadden, John McFate, William McMasters, John Roberts, James Shaw, Thomas Smiley, Henry Sutley, Michael Sutley, Luther Thomas, John Whitman.

*Fifth Company:* Captain, Hugh McManigal; Lieutenant, William Patterson; Ensign, John Boner; Sergeants, James Allen, John Craig, Thomas Dinsmore; Corporals, John Scott, William Baker; Drummer, Ernest Hovis; Privates, Thomas Baird, Charles Bigley, Patrick Davidson, William Davidson, James Donaldson, William Graham, John Hoffman, John Hovis, John Love, John Lyons, James Martin, Robert Mitchell, William McConnell, Hugh McDowell, John McManigal, Daniel McMillin, Archibald McSparren, Joseph Porter, George Shunk, Daniel Smith, Samuel Van, William Van, John Walters, Francis Whann, Robert S. Whann, Eli Williams.

*Sixth Company:* Lieutenant, John Martin; Ensign, Armstrong Duffield; Sergeants, James Martin, William Dewoody, John Ford; Corporals, Patrick Manson, John Hays; Privates, Samuel Adams, Samuel Atkinson, William Carter, Samuel Cousins, John Clyde, Robert Dewoody, Robert Dewoody (substitute for Andrew Dewoody), John Duffield, William Felton, John Foster, John Gilmore, Samuel Graham, William Greenlee, John L. Hasson, John Hays, James Hulings, Marcus Hulings.

Thomas Hulings, Francis Irwin, Jared Lee, Jr., James Martin, John Martin, Thomas Martin, William Martin, William McElhaney, John McQuaid, John McQuaid (substitute for William Duffield), John Ramsey, David Runninger, Jacob Runninger, Gustavus Shaw, George Shoemaker, Alexander Siggins, Samuel Simmons, William Stoops, Robert Temple.

*Seventh Company:* Captain, Abraham Witherup; Lieutenant, Robert Crawford; Sergeants, Levi Williams, Joseph Ross, Robert Riddle, James Calvert; Privates, David Boyd, William Campbell, Isaac Carter, James Craig, James Fearis, Martin Fritz, James Hall, Michael Hoffman, Philip Hoffman, John Jolly, William Jolly, Morgan Jones, Stephen Jones, Thomas Jones, Thomas Kerr, Joseph Layton, Patrick Layton, Thomas Lyons, Thomas Milford, James McDowell, Abner McMahon, Alexander McQuiston, Joseph Parks, William Perry, William Russell, Robert Selders, John Shannon, John Stover, Samuel Stover, John Tracy, Francis Vogus, Jacob Wise.

*Eighth Company:* Lieutenant, Isaac Connely; Sergeant, William Siggins; Privates, James Allender, William Broadfoot, James Dawson, John Dawson, Thomas Dawson, Ezekiel Fleming, John Hamilton, Samuel Henderson, Joseph Huff, Andrew Hunter, David Hunter, Ebenezer Kingsley, Jesse Miller (substitute), Samuel McGee, George Peebles, Thomas H. Prather, John Siggins, James Shreve, Alexander Thompson, Francis Tut hill, Robert Watson, Samuel Wilson.

Other names that deserve to be placed in the list of those who left their business and responded to the call of duty as they saw it are given, although the exact place they occupied in the various companies can not be ascertained with perfect accuracy: James McCalmont, Robert McCalmont, James Major, John McMillin, William Hovis, John Dewoody, Shadrach Simcox, William Brandon, Robert Curry, John Strawbridge, Samuel Bean, Daniel Keely, Thomas W. Mays, Enoch Battin, James Brown, Samuel Mason, James Mason, William Whitman, Hugh Clifford, Robert Riddle, Daniel Proper, William McIntosh, Christian Sutley, and Daniel Reynolds.

The following served a "tour of duty" under General Harrison: William Martin, John Martin, Jacob Runninger, Robert Dewoody, Samuel Simmons, Marcus Hulings, Thomas Martin, Alexander Siggins, Gustavus Shaw, John Foster, Jared Lee, Jr., John McQuaid, John McQuaid, John Clyde.

Joseph Layton and William Russell served a "tour of duty" at Erie in the autumn of 1812.

The following volunteered on board Perry's fleet: Abraham Witherup, John Ramsey, Samuel Atkinson, Samuel Graham, Jacob Wise, John Stover, Thomas H. Prather, Ezekiel Fleming.

That these men were led in their work by worthy officers is happily easily verified. Col. Samuel Dale has left a record as legislator, judge of the court of Common Pleas, and other offices in the gift of his fellow townsmen that proves their confidence in him. Major Foster was an able man of affairs, and like a president and Secretary of State to-day an old-fashioned Presbyterian. Captain Witherup was a son of the first sheriff of Venango county. His company being unfortunate in its march toward what was expected to be the battle front, he was stung by undeserved criticism and with his men made a most spectacular and dashing attack, which attracted the attention of Commodore Perry; and as history tells, as if it were an unusual occurrence, he was invited to dinner with that wholesome and hearty hero, who met the enemy and did not let them go. Like most of the leading men of that time he was a Democrat and it is said that he and his sons, numbering eight, voted as one man or as nine for James Buchanan.

Andrew Bowman, Elial Farr, Henry Neely, Andrew Porter, John Fetterman, Hugh McManigal, John Martin, Isaac Connely, have been commended by posterity. So also have those who served as privates in a small army that was great in patriotic ardor as it left the harvest for the field of honor.

#### EARLY MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS

It became evident to most men that some organization of military character was necessary to the peace of mind if not to the safety of the land. This new world was not to drift and become "to hastening ills a prey." Companies were formed and equipped. The different counties were organized under the auspices of the State and the respective officers received their commissions from the governor. They were drilled and were in a way the fore-runners of the present Reserve Militia. People who have lived a good while can remember how in their childhood the General Training Day of their youth was a day of joy and of pride. The uniformed young men, stalwart and handsome, were the pets and easily pictured heroes of the towns so fortunate as to

entertain them at this general rally. The military spirit was felt to be gentle but powerful. Fed upon the best cookery of the time, these young men would have eaten hardtack without a murmur if necessary, and everybody felt a kindling emotion at the thought.

Venango county was proud of her militia. The earliest authentic record of the names has been found to be in the year 1823. It is suggestive to note that the same names are in evidence in many instances in the best life and work of the country.

*Officers:* Captain, John Luper; First Lieutenant, James Bennett; Second Lieutenant, John Ingram; Sergeants, Abram Clark, Aaron McKissick, George Dewoody, Nathaniel Cary; Corporals, John Ridgway, Solomon Martin, Hugh McClelland, John Hamilton; Drummer, Jacob Cline; Fifer, James Brown.

*Privates* (the age is indicated by the number after each name): David Adams, 20; James Adams, 20; James Adams, 25; Samuel Bailey, 27; William Black, 22; James Bowman, 23; Elliott Brandon, 38; James Brandon, 22; John Broadfoot, 34; George Brigham, 33; Daniel Brown, 23; Stephen Bucklin, 22; Isaac Bunnell, 20; Samuel Bunnell, 42; James Cary, 29; Alexander Carroll, 30; Ebenezer Campbell, 34; Charles L. Cochran, 23; Jeremiah Clancy, 25; John Cooper, 39; Frederick G. Crary, 20; John Crary, 20; William Crary, 22; George Cummings, 26; Moses Davidson, 31; William Davidson, 25; Everton Davis; George Dewoody, 21; George Dewoody (hill), 18; Thomas Dinsmore, 27; Levi Dodd, 24; Armstrong Duffield, 37; Thomas Folwell, 18; Benjamin Ford, 27; John Ford, 30; Solomon Ford, 26; John Foster; Jacob Frick; John Galbraith; Walter Gibson, 23; William Gibson, 36; David Gilmore, 25; John Gilmore, 27; Samuel Gordon, 31; Nimrod Grace, 23; Robert Graham, 25; Samuel Graham, 29; Samuel Grant, 32; William Greenlee, 27; John Gurney, 36; Edward Hall, 25; George Hammond, 30; John Hanna, 19; James Hanna, 30; Stewart Hanna, 23; Avis Harris, 30; John Hasson, 31; Alexander S. Hays; John Hays, 25; Archibald Henderson, 30; Charles Henderson, 38; Derrick Hodge; Charles Holeman; Thomas Hood, 24; Robert Huey, 26; Thomas Hulings, 30; George Hill, 23; William Hill, 25; James Hollis, 32; Peter Houser, 23; Andrew Howe, 22; Eliakim Jewel, 32; Israel Jewel, 32; Jonathan Jewel, 25; Anthony Johnston, 25; William Johnson, 22; David King, 29; David Kinnear, 22; James Kinnear, 18; Henry Kinnear, 28; William Kinnear, 40; James Leonard, 24; John Lindsay, 22;

Stephen Lindsay, 21; Jacob Lyons, 32; John Lewis, 26; Samuel Lyons, 24; William Lyons, 18; John Lindsay, 22; Stephen Lindsay, 21; Robert Manson; James Mason, 23; William Major, 18; James Martin; Hugh Marshall, 20; Dennis Mead, 23; John Morrison, 27; Joseph Morrison, 19; Alexander McCalmont, 37; Joseph McCalmont; Robert McCalmont, 40; William McClaran, 22; George McClelland, 45; James McClintock, 22; Hugh McClintock, 25; Thomas McDowell, 19; John McKallip, 43; John McKee, 23; Franklin McClain, 19; John Noacre, 23; James Nicholson, 24; Samuel Nickerson, 31; John McElhaney; James Paden; Jonathan Paden; John J. Pearson, 21; Thomas Power, 20; Moses Pratt, 20; William Ray, 24; Hiram Reynolds, 19; Joel Reynolds, 19; John Roberts, 28; Arthur Robison, 18; Joseph Ridgway, 30; Samuel Ridgway, 35; Conrad Rice, 27; David Runninger, 27; Jacob Runninger, 30; David Russell, 35; John Russell, 21; Samuel Russell, 21; Thomas Russell, 28; William Russell, 18; E. Sage; Jonathan Sage, 21; Noah Sage, 19; John Scott, 23; Thomas Seaton, 35; George Selders, 25; John Simcox, 22; William Simcox, 27; Henry Small, 19; Thomas Smiley, 38; G. W. Smith, 32; John Smith, 19; Isaac Smith; James Spencer, 23; John Singleton, 33; James Steward, 20; Henry Stricklin, 23; Stephen Sutton; Robert Temple, 28; Howell Thomas; John Trimmer, 24; Abraham Vantine, 18; Thomas Vantine; John Vincent, 21; Wilkes Walter, 24; Francis Whann, 33; Robert Whann, 44; James Wheeler; William Whitman, 21; Job Wilcox, 22; John Wood; Peter Yelver, 38.

Among the volunteer companies at a later date were the Venango Troops, Franklin Guards, Sugar Creek Blues, Washington Guards, Scrubgrass Riflemen, Cooperstown Guards and Franklin Grays. Some idea of the personnel of the old militia nearly fifty years ago, and of the manner in which the commanding officer communicated with the rank and file, may be gained from the following:

#### REGIMENTAL ORDERS

The enrolled militia composing the 78th Regiment, Pennsylvania militia, will meet for inspection and drill as follows, to-wit:

The 9th company, commanded by Capt. S. P. McFadden; the 10th, commanded by Capt. John Boughner; the 11th, commanded by Capt. John Richie, and the 12th, commanded by Capt. J. R. McClintock, all will meet at Cooperstown on Monday, the 8th of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

The 1st company, commanded by Capt. Jacob Hoffman; the 2d, commanded by Capt. David Hovis; the 3d, commanded by James P. Riddle; the 5th, com-

manded by Capt. John M. McKinney; the 6th, commanded by Capt. William McElhaney, and the 7th, commanded by Capt. H. Gould, and the Scrubgrass Blues will meet at the house of John Bonner, in Irwin township, on Tuesday, the 9th day of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

The 19th company, commanded by Capt. William Davis; the 20th, by Capt. Jacob Truby, and the 21st, by Capt. Henry Miller, will meet at the house of Benjamin Junkin, in Richland township, on Wednesday, the 10th day of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

The 22d company, commanded by Capt. John Ohler; the 23d, by Capt. W. Whitehill; the 24th, by Capt. John Walter, and the 25th, by Capt. John E. McCalmont, will meet at the house of David Walter in Farmington township on Friday, the 12th day of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

The 17th company, commanded by Capt. John Shannon, and the 12th, commanded by Capt. James Hughes, will meet at the house of James Brandon in Cranberry township on Saturday, the 13th day of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

The 13th company, commanded by Capt. Richard S. Irwin; the 14th, by Capt. Robert P. Elliott; the 15th, by Capt. Daniel McCasland, and the 16th, by Capt. James Sauley, will meet at the house of John Lamb in Allegheny township on Friday, the 26th day of May next, at ten o'clock, A. M.

WILLIAM SHORTS, *Colonel Commanding.*

April 27, 1843.

#### THE MEXICAN WAR

The Mexican war naturally did not make a specially definite appeal to counties so far from the border. The Rio Grande was in fact farther away than the Marne or the Piave are today. Still, as it has come to be calmly asserted by Venango people, nothing important happens in the world at large without their representation. So to Mexico went young Alexander Hays, son of Gen. Samuel Hays. He was born in Franklin, and after some preliminary work went to West Point. He was graduated in 1844. He had the happiness of being a student for some time with General Grant, and the further pleasure of going with the Army of Observation to Louisiana and from there over the border among the first. He saw active service at the battle of Palo Alto, and also at Reseca de la Palma. He was wounded in the latter engagement and was obliged to do duty in recruiting labors. Afterward he was appointed assistant adjutant general to General Lane's command and contributed materially to the success of the campaign. At the close of the war he engaged in the iron business at Pittsburgh, and was subsequently occupied as civil engineer in various States. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in a regiment formed at Pittsburgh, in which he was successively captain and major. He then recruited the 63d Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was attached to Kearny's Corps and was

highly complimented by that general for gallant service at Fair Oaks and Charles City Cross Roads. Colonel Hays rendered valuable service at the second battle of Bull Run, and in recognition of his ability was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers. In 1863 he was transferred to Heintzelman's Corps, and placed in command of the 3d Brigade, Casey's Division, which sustained severe loss at the battle of Gettysburg, but came out of that engagement with a record of daring and successful execution rarely equaled. General Hays was killed at the battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864. He was buried at Pittsburgh with ceremonies appropriate to his rank as an officer and character as a man.

Another Venango county man who brilliantly served his country and who rose to high rank was Jesse L. Reno. He was in the same class at West Point with Gens. George B. McClellan and Thomas J. ("Stonewall") Jackson. He stood eighth in a class of fifty-nine, and served in the Mexican war from the siege of Vera Cruz until the triumphant entrance into Mexico. After the close of the war he was successively assistant professor of mathematics at West Point, secretary of the board for preparing a system of instruction for heavy artillery, and engaged in engineering work in various departments of the government service. At the breaking out of the Civil war he was in command of Mount Union Arsenal, Alabama. He was appointed brigadier general of volunteers Nov. 12, 1861, and commanded a brigade of Burnside's Army in the expedition into North Carolina. He was promoted to the rank of major general of volunteers July 18, 1862, and participated in the battles that occurred during Pope's retreat to Washington in the following month. He commanded the 9th Corps of the famed Army of the Potomac at the battle of South Mountain, and was killed in that engagement. A monument has been erected to his memory, and it is visited by Pennsylvanians who are glad to honor his name and who never cease to feel that he gave his life in a cause whose might and right are equal, and whose success has been a force impossible to measure in the struggle for democracy in which the world is now engaged.

#### THE CIVIL WAR

To Venango county, pursuing its peaceful life, the rumors that came slowly at first, in 1860, of possible civil war, were received with incredulity, and with utter condemnation. As

events developed all felt that some expression must be given of the feeling of the community. A meeting was called at Franklin at which James P. Hoover, D. D. Goodwin, Levi Dodd and John McCrea were appointed presiding officers, with W. T. Neil and D. W. S. Cook as secretaries. The meeting was one of the most serious deliberation. While all took part with more or less anxious hearts, they expressed the sentiment that the gathering was one for counsel. The addresses by John S. McCalmont, C. Heydrick and James K. Kerr were powerful arguments, calmly expressed, for the continuance of peace. Peace with honor was the demand. The resolutions passed gave evidence that western Pennsylvania desired to pay for no slaves and did not desire to divert her energies toward caring for them if liberated. But the sacred rights of freedom for which this government was established "must not be yielded." The tone of the entire assemblage was that of those who could not believe that war was inevitable. Still the disquieting movements of the elements seeking different courses became stronger each day.

The beautiful park at Franklin has been the scene of many a gathering of men and women bent on mutual pleasure and profit, but the mass meeting held on Monday evening, April 22, 1861, surpasses all others in far-reaching significance. Here came men in greater number than this county ever beheld together for one solemn purpose. To uphold the United States government, to restate their devotion to the principle that the majority must rule in a democracy, bound men together in the fervent fire of patriotism. They might differ widely as to methods, but one principle was unwaveringly held, that which has made America what it is to-day, the splendid acknowledgment by the individual of his obedience to the will of the majority. This has made our presidents safer in the unguarded White House than any king on his throne. This has given force to the arm of every man who strikes a blow for the right. Unspoken by the many, voiced by the few, it was this belief in the soul of each man who stood under the shade of the trees in the park at Franklin in those days long gone by. And it is the same at this moment, as any boy in khaki who sits on one of the benches under the same trees and recites to eager listeners the story of the boys of this century will vouch. The stream of patriotism has never ceased to flow in old Venango. The old blue coat of the veteran and the fresh khaki symbolize the same spirit.

Various recommendations were made. It

was at first thought necessary to form a home guard. The idea of having a distinctively Venango county regiment also found some adherents. But these were later believed impracticable and were given up. People still living in this county remember how this meeting promoted unity of feeling and of purpose. It was seen to have been of avail when men began to enlist for the war after the day of madness and of gloom when Fort Sumter was fired upon and war, almost unbelieved in, was begun in earnest.

**REGIMENTAL SKETCHES AND COMPANY ROSTERS  
39TH REGIMENT—10TH RESERVE**

The 10th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps was organized in the western part of the State. At Camp Wilkins, near Pittsburgh, an organization was effected in June, 1861, by the election of John S. McCalmont, of Venango county, a West Point graduate and regular army officer, as colonel; James T. Kirk, lieutenant colonel, and Harrison Allen, major. The regiment was mustered into the United States service July 21, 1861, and for a brief period encamped near Washington, after which it was assigned to the 3d Brigade, at first commanded by Colonel McCalmont, but afterward by Gen. E. O. C. Ord. Its first actual fighting was at the battle of Drainesville, in December, 1861. In June, 1862, it was transferred to McClellan's Army, operating against Richmond, and participated at Mechanicsville, June 26th, Gaines' Mills on the 27th and 30th, capturing on the latter date sixty prisoners. The loss in the series of battles which commenced at Mechanicsville was over two hundred. From the Peninsula the regiment passed to the army of General Pope, and participated at the second battle of Bull Run, at South Mountain and Antietam, and Fredericksburg. It shared in the memorable campaign that culminated at Gettysburg in July, 1863, and in the campaign against Richmond in 1864. On the 11th of June, 1864, the remnant of this brave and once strong body of men, which had fought in nearly every battle in which the Army of the Potomac was engaged, was mustered out of service at Pittsburgh.

*Company C* has a unique history. It was recruited at Franklin. Nearly a thousand dollars were contributed for its equipment; the uniforms were of local manufacture, made by the ladies of the town from cloth obtained at the Kennerdell mills in Clinton township. The company was known as the "Venango Grays." They left by keelboat for Pittsburgh June 6,

1861, arriving at Camp Wilkins Saturday, the 8th of that month. The following is a roster of the company:

Captains, C. Miller Over, Charles C. Cochran; First Lieutenants, Charles W. Mackey, William M. Patton; Sergeants, Samuel McKinzie, Jesse L. Pryor, Milton S. Singleton, John C. Kirkpatrick, Preston M. Hill, Lewis W. McQuaid, James L. McCullough, Walter B. Fogus, Noble F. Leslie, Gillis C. Keener, William C. McElwain, Elihu G. Neighbor, William Dougherty, George G. McLain, Thomas W. Agnew, George W. Peters, Samuel Moyer, James M. Cover; Corporals, Robert D. Sutton, F. T. Alexander, James B. White, Benjamin P. Addleman, Myers Eckenerger, John M. Wimer, W. H. Kirkpatrick; Musician, Emory A. Sadler; Privates, Hiram Brown, Joseph M. Bowman, Lyman Brown, Freeling Brown, Christopher Cramer, Aaron T. Cross, Benjamin F. Camp, George Crispin, Robert Coulter, John H. Crawford, George W. Conver, Ephraim Dempsey, David Dorland, George Elliott, R. H. Fitzsimmons, Smith Fullerson, William J. Grable, Andrew Griffin, James B. Galbraith, John Griffin, Frederick Heigle, William A. Horton, Thomas J. Jones, John Jourdon, Hiester Keith, William Kreckle, Marcus Lockrout, Samuel Leslie, David Lovell, William Loose, Gilbert Morgan, George McCool, John S. May, Thomas M. McFadden, John H. McQuaid, Annis Moore, Alexander McCurdy, William McKenzie, Daniel B. McMillan, David P. Morrison, Samuel McChesney, George Meager, Robert B. Nellis, Isaiah Nellis, James Nickeson, James Oldridge, Thomas H. Pollock, William B. Powell, Thomas J. Ross, Joseph D. Ross, William Ramley, Samuel B. Ross, Absalom Smith, Samuel Stewart, Anthony Showers, George S. Shattuck, George W. Scott, John Seibert, Daniel K. Sheffer, Alexander F. Sawhill, Alexander Sallinger, Samuel M. Skeel, James D. Shaw, Thomas H. Templeton, Ezekiel N. Tracy, Robert Taylor, William A. Varner, William P. White, John H. Wilhelm, William J. Welsh, Bradford Wilson, Henry J. Widle, Edward Wallace, William Winkleman, John Wiloon, John Wolfkill, James S. Wonzer, John Walters, John Yingling.

**57TH REGIMENT**

This regiment was principally recruited in the counties of Mercer, Crawford and Venango. It was organized at Camp Curtin. Thomas S. Strohecker, who was promoted to a lieutenant colonelcy March 12, 1863, was the

only field officer from this county. The regiment was ordered into line with the Army of the Potomac in February, 1862, and assigned to Jameson's Brigade of Heintzelman's Division. At the operations against Yorktown it was engaged in the trenches under conditions exceedingly deleterious to health, and in consequence of this and subsequent exposure it became necessary to discharge quite a number of the men on account of sickness. It was engaged at Fair Oaks May 31, 1862, at Charles City Cross Roads on the 30th of June, at Malvern Hill on the 1st of July, at the second battle of Bull Run on the 20th and 30th of August, at Chantilly on the 1st of September, and at Fredericksburg on the 13th of December. The principal engagements in which it participated in the following year were Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, sustaining severe losses on both occasions. On the 4th of May it was engaged at close range with a detachment of the enemy near Chancellorsville, losing one hundred and forty-three men in killed, wounded, and missing. In January, 1865, the regiment was consolidated into a battalion of six companies, and later, by a union with the 84th, restored to its former strength. On the 25th of March it was engaged in the demonstrations about Fort Steadman which inaugurated the movement resulting in the capture of Petersburg. It was mustered out of service in June at Alexandria.

*Company I* was recruited in Venango and Mercer counties. It was commanded as follows.

Captains, Thomas S. Strohecker, Lorenzo D. Bumpus, James D. Moore, John R. Ross; First Lieutenants, George Supplee, John Bowers, Thomas E. Merchant; Second Lieutenants, Jesse R. Williams, Edward S. Benedict, John F. Cox, Henry M. Adams, Cyrus P. Slaven, James M. Lewis; Sergeants, George W. Lower, William C. Stewart, O. D. Waterman, William Curtis, Alfred Aurandt, Henry M. Snare, William Bone, Orseamus R. White, James W. Cummings, James L. Wykoff; Corporals, Joseph Enders, Lartis Campbell, Jacob W. Miller, John C. Shinefelt, Amon Houck, James Colbert, Elijah Gorsuch, Samuel L. Hare, David A. Stewart, James A. Davis, Virgil Brigham, Elijah Estep, James Zahniser, L. N. Herring, C. G. Barker, A. C. Hanna, Levi McFadden, Albert Reynolds; Musician, Jeremiah Black.

#### 63D REGIMENT

The 63d was recruited in Allegheny county and the valley of the Allegheny river, with

one company from Beaver, and a comparatively small number of men from Venango. The field officers were: Alexander Hays, a native of this county, colonel; A. S. M. Morgan, lieutenant colonel, and Maurice Wallace, major, at the time of its organization, in 1861. It was assigned to the 3d Brigade of Heintzelman's Division, and did gallant service at Fair Oaks, Charles City Cross Roads, Malvern Hill, the second battle of Bull Run and Chantilly; General Kearny having been killed in the latter engagement the division was ordered to the defenses of Washington, but after the battle of Antietam rejoined the army and fought at Fredericksburg. The regiment also took part in the Chancellorsville and Gettysburg campaigns, and in the movements of 1864 in Virginia.

*Company G*, recruited in Allegheny, Venango, and Armstrong counties, was officered by the following:

Captains, Charles W. McHenry, Isaac Moorhead; First Lieutenants, S. Hays Cochran, James S. Williams; Second Lieutenants, Robert Houston, William R. Nicholson; Sergeants, Aaron W. Gilmore, John Cessna, John M. Thomas, John C. Brookbank, William B. Peiffer, Robert W. Martin; Corporals, John Pickel, James N. Coulter, George A. Cook, William M. Smith, Alfred B. Luper, Frank H. Johnston, Edward Wacksmith, Milton J. Adams, Benjamin H. Smith, Matthew A. Rankin, Simon Steffy, William J. Graham, Thomas Q. Martin; Musicians, John Hassinger, Philip Hassinger.

#### 64TH REGIMENT—4TH CAVALRY

Venango county had a larger representation in this regiment than in any other. There was one company from Northampton county, three from Allegheny, two from Westmoreland and Indiana, four from Venango, one from Lebanon, and one from Luzerne, which rendezvoused at Camp Curtin, but were soon afterward transferred to Washington, where they were mustered into service and organized into three battalions under the following field officers: David Campbell, of Pittsburgh, Colonel; James H. Childs, of Pittsburgh, Lieutenant Colonel; James K. Kerr, of Venango, First Major; William E. Doster, of Northampton, Second Major; James H. Trimble, of Westmoreland, Third Major. Upon the resignation of Colonel Campbell, in March, 1862, Lieutenant Colonel Childs was promoted to succeed him, Major Kerr was promoted to the lieutenant colonelcy and Capt. George H. Covode to a majority. In

the following May the regiment was assigned to McCall's Division, Pennsylvania Reserves. In June a battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Kerr was ordered to Yorktown, where it remained during the Peninsular campaign. On the 26th of June a squadron led by Captain Herron, while scouting beyond the lines, met the Confederate advance and fired the first shot on the Union side in the ensuing Seven Days' battles, in which, however, the regiment was not conspicuously engaged. From Harrison's Landing it marched to Yorktown, and thence to Washington, and rejoined McClellan's Army in the movement into Maryland, having been assigned to General Averell's Brigade. Owing to the illness of the latter the command devolved upon Colonel Childs, and Lieutenant Colonel Kerr led the regiment. At the battle of Antietam Colonel Childs was killed, resulting in the promotion of Lieutenant Colonel Kerr to the colonelcy. In the autumn of 1862 the regiment was stationed near Hancock, Md.; was with Pleasanton in his pursuit of Stuart, and during the battle of Fredericksburg was stationed on the north side of the Rappahannock. In the movement upon Chancellorsville, in the Gettysburg campaign, and particularly in the pursuit of Lee's retreating army, the 4th was actively engaged. On the 12th of October, 1863, the regiment, already reduced to 375 men, sustained a loss of two hundred. When the time for veteran re-enlistment arrived more than two thirds of the men enrolled for a second term. During the Wilderness campaign the cavalry frequently dismounted to form skirmish line. The 4th accompanied Sheridan in his raid upon Richmond and Lynchburg. It was in a number of skirmishes during the summer and autumn of 1864, the most important being the second advance upon the Weldon railroad. After Lee's surrender it was assigned to permanent duty at Lynchburg, where it was mustered out of service on the 1st of July, 1865.

Four companies of this regiment were from Venango county. They mustered at Franklin, Oct. 14, 1861, and left at six p. m. for Pittsburgh by the steamboat "Venango," arriving at that place at half-past two the following day. On the next day, at four a. m., they started for Harrisburg; at Camp Curtin they were uniformed, and thence proceeded to Washington. The rosters of the respective companies were as follows:

*Company H:* Captains, James H. Pennell, Robert J. Phipps, George W. Wilson; First Lieutenants, A. A. Plumer, John R. Dodge, Thomas J. Robinson, Josiah J. Watkins, Adel-

bert M. Beatty; Second Lieutenants, Abraham Edwards, James M. Gayetty, David P. Lamb; Sergeants, Albert Benedict, Jacob Lyons, Andrew Brown, James R. Downing, James Wilkins, James McFadden, Reese Clark, James Galbraith, John Crain, Alexander G. Wilkins, Charles Albaugh; Corporals, David Ray, William H. Gayetty, John R. Stover, Alfred L. Comb, H. F. Bowman, Joseph G. Hall, Charles W. McElray, John Jackson, Samuel Hatch, Russell Lincoln, Wilson Cathcart, Ethan Stone; Buglers, Edgar Nyle, Daniel Hurstine; Blacksmith, Lewis Mitchell; Farrier, A. Bumgardner; Privates, John A. Adams, Samuel S. Adams, John Anderson, Joseph Bates, William F. Brown, John J. Black, Smith Byers, Andrew H. Bush, John Brown, Joseph Breing, Francis Bull, George N. Crodle, Hiram Conner, Matthew B. Conner, John Q. A. Conner, Hiram A. Conner, David Coleman, William Calaghan, Henry Carner, Adam Crider, James Collar, Asa M. Clark, Robert P. Clark, Marcus Cope-land, Charles Castle, Daniel Dunmire, William Davis, George Davis, John E. Davis, John M. Dunn, Zenis N. Durrin, John S. Dick, Josiah Duffield, William Duffriel, George Dewoody, Asa Eastman, C. H. Fahnestock, W. M. Graham, George W. Gates, James Gormly, Samuel M. Gardner, Thomas S. Gibson, John F. Grace, Caleb Gray, Freeman D. Grace, Jackson P. Huey, William G. Hall, Patrick Hughes, John Harris, Joseph Hibbs, Christopher Hyser, A. H. Hunsinger, Samuel Hewett, Robert W. N. Henry, Reese E. Harris, Hiram J. Hamilton, William A. Johnson, George W. Lindly, David L. Miller, Cyrus Michael, Charles Miller, Thomas H. Megogany, Hiram Milford, Amos H. Monroe, Isaac Maloney, John F. Meader, John McGinley, Milton M. McCully, John McCallister, John McMillan, P. H. McArdle, Jacob Piser, Walter C. Parker, James A. Powell, Sylvester Parker, Richard Quinlin, John W. Riddle, Horatio Randall, Anthony Robertson, Charles H. Ruff, George H. Ridgely, Frank Stephens, Alexander Scott, John J. Snodgrass, N. N. Stevenson, Harvey V. Stoops, George H. Smith, Andrew Sanford, Charles S. Sanford, Thomas Stevenson, George Thropp, Charles Tripp, John Upton, Wesley H. Varner, John Williams, Alexander Williams, John Winters, Andrew Whisner, John Whiteel, Peter Woodley, James Wood, James Walshaw.

*Company I:* Captains, Charles E. Taylor, Robert L. Coltart, Francis M. Ervay, Andrew Nellis; First Lieutenants, Milo A. Plumer, Robert Coltart; Second Lieutenants, Alexander Frazier, Joshua C. Bealle, Albert J. Survey,

William H. Cowan; Sergeants, Paul Neely, John B. Hogue, William H. Thompson, Daniel W. Servey, Henry Bender, Robert King, Isaac Burris, William S. Keller, John T. Ewens, Cyrus S. Mark, Daniel E. Wise; Corporals, Parker Luper, Harvey W. Jones, James Callen, James M. Bethune, Homer C. Brown, William Strite, J. Keas, Lewis McFadden; Bugler, Robert P. Shaw; Blacksmith, Artemus Kinnear; Farrier, William B. Keener; Privates, William Amon, Loyal Adams, Joseph A. Alter, Jacob Aly, Cortlandt Brown, Crawford Belig, Jacob H. Bethune, Richard Barkly, Daniel J. Brown, William C. Bryant, Joseph Bronnette, Terence C. Byers, Lewis Byrns, John Bethune, George Baney, Isaac Baney, George Bromley George Culber, William Criswell, Thomas Colburn, Benjamin F. Crain, John Clark, Ephraim F. Cisco, James Carnahan, Silas Davis, William H. Dill, James R. Davidson, Joseph E. Davis, Benjamin Dougherty, William H. Durning, Daniel Eagan, Thomas M. Elder, Henry Freeby, John E. Freeman, William S. Fleming, John Flager, Samuel R. Foulk, George Ghearing, Lewis Gross, Ira B. Gilmore, Willabed Gneedig, Isaac Gormly, George W. Gates, Jacob Grinnells, James Hoover, Horace Haller, Thomas B. Hoffman, Thomas L. Hays, Marvin S. Hasson, Robert Hilands, George B. Haines, William Harrison, Wiley H. Hunter, Levi E. Hart, Melvin A. Johnson, Milton James, William T. Johnson, Jeremiah C. Jennings, Samuel James, Alexander James, Andrew P. Jones, Peter D. Kelly, George Kinnear, Charles Kelly, Truman J. King, Robert Kirtley, James F. Lamberton, Gilbert Luper, Barnett Luper, James Legg, Paul Messner, William Miller, Daniel Miller, Daniel Murray, James Marshall, William Mooney, Lewis Miles, John L. McCalmont, Robert G. McClelland, Marcus McCurdy, James McMillen, William McCutcheon, Jacob Nellis, James Posey, Richard Place, John W. Porterfield, John W. Patterson, William Reagle, John Reagle, John Roberts, Josiah Randal, Thomas J. Robertson, Albert Reagle, William J. Reynolds, Rufus P. Seely, Alfred M. Shaw, Josiah Scott, Thomas O. Scott, Charles J. Smith, Michael Smith, Jerry B. Smith, Frank Showalter, Israel Stroup, Edward Stroup, Jacob Smith, Mark Smale, Porter Thompson, Miller M. Thomas, William Thomas, Isaac Taylor, W. D. Taylor, William Thompson, John Vorans, Samuel Wallace, John Werrell, Andrew P. Watt, Thomas T. Watt, Francis M. Wilson, George Yeates.

*Company K:* Captains, William W. Shorts, Henry M. Hughes, James R. Grant; First Lieu-

tenant, George W. Wise; Second Lieutenants, Robert J. Atwell, John A. Welton; Sergeants, Joseph W. Russell, William C. Bigler, Solomon Funk, James McGarvey, Richard M. Hoffman, John W. Baker, Samuel B. Foster, James F. Billingsley, Levi Porter, James E. McClaskey, S. M. Lockard, Freeland Henderson; Corporals, David R. P. Gates, John H. McKelvey, William D. Downing, Jacob Harlan, William C. Eakin, John T. Couse, Wesley B. Foster, Daniel Krister, William C. Yard, Donaldson Graham, John F. Brown, Charles A. Tibbins, Hezekiah Baker, Nathaniel S. Boals; Bugler, Warren M. Lockard; Blacksmith, Robert Shaw; Farrier, Thomas Davis; Saddlers, John A. Goucher, Daniel Shuler; Privates, Perry S. Atwell, Joseph Bleakley, William Bleakley, James Bleakley, Frederick S. Boals, Martin Bigler, Oliver P. Barnes, James T. Burr, Alva W. Bigley, Alonzo S. Baker, James I. Burns, William Cramer, W. W. Crawford, John M. Cornelius, Gotlieb Coonradt, Thomas L. Curry, Walter Cassidy, Craft Coast, Eri Cary, Andrew J. Donaldson, Thomas Duffey, John R. Dodds, Thomas Dewoody, Reese Evans, Martin B. Foster, Ross C. Foster, Irwin C. Fether, William J. Graham, Brice Gilmore, Henry Highfield, Wesley Highfield, William J. Hickman, Caleb G. Hovis, G. W. Hovis, R. M. Hovis, Jacob Henderson, William Hackett, Charles Huberman, John Highfield, Emanuel Harman, Henry Harlem, H. A. Harman, James Irwin, David E. Irwin, Albert M. Jones, William H. Jeffries, J. B. W. Johnson, B. W. James, John L. Jackson, George W. Koonce, George W. Kim, Isaac Latchaw, David Latchaw, Sidney Lambert, James Little, Robert Lytle, T. I. Montgomery, J. H. Monjar, D. Montgomery, Harrison Moyer, Alexander Martin, Thomas Michael, Frederick Moyer, Jonathan McKain, John C. McCamant, Perry McFadden, Charles McFadden, John A. McCoy, William McKelvey, Sullivan K. McKain, D. A. McWilliams, John P. Nogler, Peter Nogler, John Oglesby, Samuel R. Osborn, John L. Perry, Andrew J. Phipps, Garrison Pope, Wellington W. Pope, George C. Richards, Thomas Rock, Samuel R. Russell, David H. Rysor, Washington Richards, Patterson Sankey, Absalom Shuler, Benjamin Stover, Robert Shorts, John G. Sutton, William C. Sutton, Abram W. Shorts, M. Strawhacker, Jesse Sarver, Robert S. Sarver, John P. Say, Wilson Swetzer, Jackson Shipps, Alexander Thompson, James Thompson, Lafayette B. Varner, David H. Varner, John Varner, Richard M. Walter, John S. Wilson, Clark White, Samuel R. Weston, Eli Williams, Alex-

ander Witherup, John Witherup, David A. Witherup, Thomas Witherup, Henry H. Wilson, Sharpless C. Wise, John B. Woodling, Albert V. Weed, Peter Walters, Israel S. Yard.

*Company L:* Captains, Alender S. Duncan, William B. Mays, John P. Barr; First Lieutenant, Henry S. Bickel; Second Lieutenants, John B. Maitland, George W. Wilson, Abner J. Pryer; Sergeants, Henry H. Lusher, Andrew J. Sollinger, James D. Troutner, John Donaldson, Jonathan S. Roberts, Sylvester Brandon, Samuel F. Karns, William G. Sheppard, John B. Snyder, Sylvester Porter, John Hughes, Augustus F. Loles; Corporals, Charles E. Nugent, Francis W. Bowen, Peter J. Richey, Richard Conway, George H. Porter, Robert B. Crawford, Harvey Christy, Andrew J. Davis, Jonathan Gloss, John Huston, William A. Seaton, Earl B. French, Samuel N. King, James G. Hamilton, John M. Hilbert, Solomon C. Heckathorn, Alpheus Mays; Buglers, Thomas J. Henderson, William J. Gibbons; Blacksmiths, Daniel Sullinger, Dominick Scott; Farriers, Andrew J. Turk, Jackson Hanly; Privates, Joseph A. Alters, John W. Anderson, Stephen Burgwin, Edward Burgwin, Thomas Brandon, James Bryer, Bernard Burns, Isaac Bears, Samuel Bickel, William G. Bishop, Daniel J. Brown, Frank W. Beatie, Charles H. Bates, Thomas Burns, Robert Cain, Albertus Coons, William J. Calighan, George W. Carney, Thomas M. Christy, Clinton Collingwood, Charles Coop, Peter O. Conver, Andrew J. Carner, Eli Carner, Thomas L. Curry, Alexander Curtis, William Campbell, David W. Davidson, Andrew H. Downing, Thomas Davis, John Drach, William H. Dill, Jacob Eckelbarger, James Estes, Liberty Estes, John Eckelbarger, James H. Fulton, Franklin Flowers, Daniel Ferdan, Anthony Frankhauser, Robert Fowler, Barney Fogle, M. M. Freeborn, John B. Gailey, Cyrus Gardner, John W. Gilger, Garrett Griffin, James Gates, David Howell, Simon P. Hughs, John Hagan, Frederick Hoover, James Hyndman, Samuel E. Holdridge, R. A. Hutchinson, Allen S. Jolly, James Jones, John Johnson, John Kellerman, John Kerr, Charles S. King, Michael Kelly, J. H. Louderbough, Jacob G. Lusher, John P. Maitland, George W. Moore, Philander Mays, John Montgomery, John S. Mossman, John Miller, Thomas Morgan, William Manson, Larimer Mays, Williams H. Moore, James Myers, John McCormick, James McMillen, John McTiernan, Thomas McKain, John McKelvey, Joseph McMullen, Marcus McCurdy, Andrew McMillen, George W. McCoy, Henry Neely, William Nowlder, Henry Ochs, John Oldham,

Samuel Payne, Samuel W. Pryer, John F. Pryer, William C. Pryer, Thomas A. Parker, John W. Pryer, Robert R. Pike, Octavius A. Russell, John P. Rollins, John W. Roberts, Joseph Roberts, Edward Rice, John W. Reno, John T. Ritter, William Ruhe, Patrick Ryan, Samuel C. Reynolds, John Roberts, William C. Sullinger, James C. Sullinger, Adam Stroup, Michael Sowers, Eliel C. Spencer, John M. Snyder, Jacob Steinbright, John Snyder, John S. Smith, John Stump, Jacob Sipe, Edward Stroup, George Sheffer, Israel A. Straub, John Seibert, George Tenant, Abraham S. Taylor, James Thorp, Joseph Vosler, Jeremiah D. Wentworth, Samuel R. Walker, P. Zimmerman, F. Zimmerman.

#### 65TH REGIMENT—5TH CAVALRY

The 5th Cavalry was at first known as the Cameron Dragoons and was among the first of the three years' regiments raised. There were ten companies from Philadelphia and two from the western part of the State, one of which was partially recruited in Venango county. The following were the field officers: Colonel, Max Friedman; Lieutenant Colonel, Philip Becker; Majors, J. L. Moss, Stephen E. Smith, and E. M. Boteler. During the year 1862 the 5th was principally engaged in scouting in the rear of the army during the Peninsular campaign, and on the north side of the York river. In January, 1863, it was transported from Yorktown to West Point and marched in the direction of Indiantown, intercepting and capturing a valuable baggage train of the enemy. After a comparatively quiet summer, during which a large number of the men were in hospitals, a battalion composed of five companies was sent to the Dismal Swamp region in September, part of which advanced into North Carolina. In 1864 the regiment participated in the raid upon the Weldon and Richmond & Danville railroads; in the summer, having joined General Butler's forces, it was engaged in an assault upon the defenses of Petersburg, and after the union of the cavalry divisions of Generals Kautz and Wilson, started upon what is familiarly known as Wilson's raid, sustaining a loss of three hundred men, half its effective force, in an engagement with General Longstreet on the 28th of July. A similar depletion in its ranks occurred on the 7th of October, when the division, led by General Kautz, was engaged with a greatly superior force under Longstreet and Pickett. On the 10th of December Longstreet's Corps was again the aggressor at Charles City Road, and

was repulsed with loss. The regiment continued on picket duty at that place until March 25, 1865; it took part in the maneuvers immediately prior to Lee's surrender and was finally mustered out, 331 officers and men, on the 19th of May, and the remainder on the 7th of August.

*Company M*, composed of the following officers and privates, was recruited in Venango and Allegheny counties: Captains, Anderson Faith, John P. Wenzel, G. S. L. Ward; First Lieutenants, George J. Kerr, Thomas Little, Frank C. Grugan; Second Lieutenants, Walter H. Fitten, Wilson E. Davis, Calvin D. Ludwig; Sergeants, William McGinnis, William Bothwell, Edward Bailey, James Bennett, James B. Jennings, Hugh McClory, Patrick Ford, Robert Russell, Patrick Carlin, John L. Burrows, William Mendenhall, Martin Maher, Joseph McClellan, Uriah Patterson, William J. Andre, Silas C. Hough; Corporals, George Latch, Francis McCaffrey, Joseph Devlin, David Phillips, Charles Denight, Joseph Martin, John O'Neill, David W. Parker, John Fisher, Herman Hagemiller, Henry Bohder, Henry Steltz, Edward Hoffman, George Levis, John Winkleman, F. Holdenwreter, George M. Koons, R. H. Anderson; Bugler, Harvey M. Reno; Artificer, Cyrus E. Reagle; Blacksmith, Dennis Dorris; Farrier, James Hickey; Privates, Leonard C. Adams, Josiah Abbott, Stephen C. Albright, Jeremiah Albert, Joseph Arker, Hiram Abbott, Samuel Albert, Thomas Bailey, John Barnes, John W. Baker, Daniel W. Bohanan, Frederick Bush, Thomas Broomall, John A. Boyd, David H. Bronson, George H. Bartle, Jacob Bickle, Zephaniah Benz, Ferdinand Benz, Milton Brame, Adam Brinker, Joseph Bowers, Edward Brady, Dennis Boyce, James M. Brady, Charles Beeser, William Berlin, Christian L. Beck, Alexander Cameron, William H. Coates, George C. Croffutt, Peter F. Campbell, Joseph Coughlin, Daniel Culver, John Connor, James Curry, George Clift, Samuel Caldwell, Morris Collins, Edward Coyle, Patrick Cassiday, Henry Crist, James J. Cooper, John Day, James Doody, Alexander Dailey, William Davis, John Donahue, Joshua Davis, Joseph Donovan, Albert Denver, George M. Dever, Andrew Davidson, Daniel Dull, Charles W. Dreibelbis, Matthew Dolan, Henry M. Ellis, Henry J. Eckenrod, John Evans, Charles Egenhyller, William Fessler, Samuel H. Fenton, John Funk, Alexander Flynn, David S. Foreman, Harrison Fiedler, August Fraca, Patrick Gorman, Michael Gainer, Miles Gross, John Gallagher, William Green, George Harrison, Louis Hendervine, William Hook,

David C. Henk, John D. Hetsler, Morris Helmes, Michael Hunt, Lewis Howard, William Hoffman, George W. Hemphill, George Hunter, H. Humelbaugh, John Johnson, Edwin Johnston, Samuel Kennedy, Stephen Kearney, James F. Keating, William Kirkwood, Gottlieb Kafer, John Knapler, John Keblinger, Rudolph Kelker, John Lehry, William Leyrer, Samuel Levy, Francis S. Long, Alexander Lutz, Charles Leip, Samuel Lever, Frederick Lenegan, James S. Moore, Henry M. Money, John Monaghan, William Magee, Thomas C. Mason, Archibald Murphy, John Martin, John Morehead, Jonas Mull, Matthew Manees, Adam Miller, John Marks, William Moore, William Marker, Henry Magee, Andrew C. Mott, Bartholomew Maier, Andrew McGinnis, Patrick McHugh, James McAvoy, John McNeill, Philip McCue, Michael McKenna, Peter McGue, Alexander McGhee, John B. McCormick, Bernard McBride, Philip M. Norbeck, F. Nonnamaker, Charles Newkirk, William Openshaw, John Orr, Dennis O'Donnell, James A. Price, Richard Peel, Samuel Pinkerton, John Porter, James R. Porterfield, Michael Quinn, Larissa Romeo, George Reed, S. J. Reno, Josiah Rudderow, John S. Reichard, Andrew Reid, Robert Rankin, James Ross, George Reicht, James M. Shoop, William H. Suffern, Albert R. Sipe, Joseph Salm, Charles Sterling, John Smith, James Skiffington, William Showalter, Charles Seip, Henry Stork, Owen Smith, Isaac Shaffer, Francis M. Showers, Henry Seip, A. H. Sullinger, James W. Showers, Thomas Shinkle, W. J. Stewart, Charles W. Shaner, J. S. Showalter, Lawrence Stafford, James B. Sample, William Shaffer, Charles Shaffer, Washington Shaffer, Richard Schultz, William Shirk, George Thompson, Thomas Tobin, William Tomlinson, Robert Taylor, Amandus Voight, Andrew Weidle, David H. Williams, Charles Weiss, James Williams, George Wood, Joseph Wunder, Charles G. Woodruff, Frank White, David Whitmoyer, John White, Robert Wilson, John Weaver, Charles Wallace, Charles Wolston, James Walker, Amos Walker, Frederick Wetteran, Joseph Zeigler.

#### 103D REGIMENT

This regiment was recruited in the western part of the State, and organized at Harrisburg by the choice of the following officers: Theodore F. Lehmann, Colonel; Wilson C. Maxwell, Lieutenant Colonel; Audley W. Gazzam, Major. It first saw field service in the month of April, 1862, at the siege of York-

town. At the battle of Fair Oaks its loss was eighty-four killed and wounded; it was not engaged to any extent in the Seven Days' battles, but at the close of the Peninsular campaign had lost, by casualties and sickness, nearly half its original strength. It was separated from the Army of the Potomac at that time and transported to Norfolk, whence, in December, it proceeded to Newbern, N. C., and joined General Foster's expedition into the interior. At its conclusion the regiment went into barracks on the Neuse river, and for a brief period enjoyed the pleasant features of military life, the prelude, unfortunately, of the worst horrors of war. Wessells' Brigade, to which the 103d was attached, was ordered to Plymouth, at which place General Wessells established his headquarters as commander of the District of the Albemarle. Fortifications were erected, but almost before their completion the place was invested by a force of fifteen thousand men under General Hoke, while the ram "Albemarle" wrought havoc among the Union shipping. On the 20th of April, 1864, the Union forces surrendered. This regiment numbered at the time about four hundred, rank and file; the wounded were left at Plymouth in charge of the enemy; the officers were sent to Macon, Ga., and the privates to Andersonville, where 132 died while in confinement. At the time of the surrender, one company had been on Roanoke Island, which, with a few men who were absent at the time, was still known as the 103d Regiment. The command was finally mustered out of service at Newbern June 25, 1865, but eighty-one of the original men being then present.

*Company B* was recruited in Armstrong, Butler, Clarion and Venango counties. The roster was as follows: Captains, George W. Gillespie, Joseph Rodgers, Daniel L. Coe; First Lieutenant, Solomon Barnhart; Second Lieutenant, George W. Stoke; Sergeants, William T. Bair, Thomas Hart, C. M. Rumbaugh, Daniel L. Rankin, S. M. Criswell, Cyrus K. McKee, Robert M. Crawford; Corporals, George Waterson, Isaac Shakely, John S. McElhaney, Samuel J. Gibson, Isaac Schwartlander, James H. Crawford, James M. Carson, William Harrison, Thomas Hayes; Musicians, Andrew Rogers, Harrison W. Coe; Privates, Abram Adams, Augustus Abel, Robert Barr, James Brenneman, Henry L. Benninger, John B. Bish, Reuben Burford, Matthias C. Beamer, Owen Boyle, L. A. Brenneman, Isaac Barnhart, William Burford, Alfred Campbell, John A. Crawford, Benjamin F. Coe, Alexander Craig, James Cumberland, Joshua A. Camp-

bell, James T. Day, David Dovenspeck, Thomas J. Devenny, Alexander Dunlap, Barney Deany, John P. Erwin, Michael C. Emlinger, Lorenzo W. Frantz, John Foster, Gideon W. Gibson, Samuel Granville, John A. Gibson, Stewart Gilchrist, Hezekiah Hayes, Peter Hilliard, Jackson Hilliard, Robert Harper, Ephraim Hankey, John B. Hankey, Robert Hayes, Simon Hile, John M. Hayes, John L. Hile, David W. Jordan, Alexander C. Jackson, John M. Jones, Andrew Judson, William Kennedy, Richard Kelley, William D. Keefer, Aaron Lang, H. Montgomery, Matthew J. McCay, Joseph McCay, Harvey B. McClure, Thomas L. McClure, Robert McCleary, Wesley McCool, Joseph Neuton, Conrad Petzinger, William Penburthy, Orrin Payne, William G. Pierce, Samuel Pool, Joseph Rumbaugh, James Rankin, Nehemiah Reeser, Benjamin Rankin, William Reese, Jacob Reese, Alexander Regus, Henry Regus, Hamilton Robb, James Ritchey, David Ross, S. G. Rosansteel, John Sweet, John Sowers, Joseph Sowers, Uriah Sloan, Abram Snyder, Albert W. Smith, Abram W. Smith, George W. Shakely, James Sweet, Henry C. Shakely, Nicholas Snow, S. S. Sanderson, Matthew Sherlock, Daniel K. Shakely, James Shields, Presley Sloan, William Sowers, John Scharem, Charles M. Truby, Michael White, William D. Woodruff, David Walley, James Wolft, Peter Williams.

#### 105TH REGIMENT

The field officers of this regiment chosen at its organization were Amor A. McKnight, Colonel; W. W. Corbett, Lieutenant Colonel; M. M. Dick, Major. It was on fatigue and picket duty at the siege of Yorktown and throughout the Peninsular campaign, and so frequently and severely engaged, and suffered so much from sickness, that upon its arrival at Harrison's Landing it scarcely numbered one hundred, rank and file. At the close of Pope's campaign, in which it received special commendatory mention from General Kearny in his report of the battle of Bull Run, the division to which it was attached was ordered into the defenses of Washington, where it remained until after the battle of Antietam. It suffered some loss at Fredericksburg; at Chancellorsville, out of twenty-seven officers and 320 men who went into action, seventy-seven were killed, wounded or missing; the similar aggregate at the battle of Gettysburg was 168, and at the Wilderness, in May, 1864, 170. In the summer and autumn of that year it participated

in the operations against Petersburg and in the raid upon the Weldon railroad, continuing in active service during the spring of 1865. It marched in the grand review at Washington on the 23d of June and was mustered out on the 11th of July.

*Company F* was recruited in Clearfield, Indiana, and Venango counties. The roster was as follows: Captains, Robert Kirk, John Daugherty, William Kimple; First Lieutenants, James B. Geggie, Henry P. McKillip; Second Lieutenants, David Ratcliff, Ezra B. Baird, Ogg Niel; Sergeants, William T. Stewart, Jacob L. Smith, Lewis Findley, William W. Hazlett, John M. Brewer, Samuel H. Pound, Robert Doty, John W. Smith, Samuel Harrison, John Hendricks, Elijah Pantall, Jonathan Brindle; Corporals, Luke Loomis, Jr., Andrew Douglass, Joshua Pearce, Joseph Taylor, William H. Hazlett, John N. Means, Charles B. Gill, John W. Lynn, Lewis D. En-singer, Ira F. Mott, George R. Hall, George W. McFadden, Thomas Niel, Irwin R. Nicodennus, James Randolph, George W. Randolph, John N. Vanhorn, Peter Wheelan, George W. Campbell; Privates, William H. H. Anthony, Jonathan Ayres, James D. Anthony, Thomas S. Anderson, James Aul, William W. Brilli-hart, John W. Bryant, John H. Bush, Jacob L. Bee, John W. Brooks, Charles Berry, James Buher, James Crock, James Crawford, John Carr, Samuel Cochran, John Cupler, William A. Chambers, Perry C. Cupler, Michael Dolan, William W. Dixon, Peter Depp, Henry H. Depp, Peter Dalton, Thomas Dailey, Patrick Delaney, Philip B. Depp, John P. Drum, James Dunn, Jonathan Doty, Samuel Edwards, Chauncey A. Ellis, John M. Fleming, Albert Foltz, William Fitzgerald, Samuel Fry, John F. Fulmer, Samuel D. Fulmer, Stephen Gleeson, George Gossor, James Gallagher, Joseph Graham, Anthony A. Gallagher, Thomas S. Guiles, Henry A. L. Girts, Jonathan Himes, William S. Hendricks, Isaac Hendricks, Joseph Hill, Alonzo Hemstreat, George W. Hoover, Benjamin B. Hall, John Hare, James Hopkins, Thomas Hombs, H. H. Hollowell, Simon D. Hugus, John C. Hollowell, Thomas M. Hauck, Edward Hogan, George W. Hollowell, Samuel Hannah, George K. Hoover, John D. Jewell, Jackson Jones, Daniel Johnson, James A. Johnston, Robert J. Jewett, James Jenkins, Amos S. Knauer, Harrison Kelty, Charles Kleffer, John Kelly, John Kelly, Jacob Kurtz, Thomas Kennan, Robert S. Laughry, Levi S. Lust, Nicholas Lutcher, Charles Lyle, John Myer, Edward Mingus, George R. Moyer, Garret P. Mattis, Peter Morgan, William

Mann, Scott Mitchell, William C. Martin, George W. Maynard, George Moore, John Miller, James A. Minish, James McCarty, Robert McMannes, Michael McDonnell, Thomas McFadden, John McKean, Samuel A. McGhee, William T. Niel, Thomas Orr, William O'Brian, Matthew O'Donnell, Charles W. O'Niel, James O'Brien, Thomas O'Brickle, Charles Parry, David R. Porter, James R. Pounds, Jackson Piper, Adam Ritz, Enos Ratzel, Amos Redky, Jacob Reel, John Riley, Peter Rourke, Irwin Robinson, James W. Shafer, Isaac Smith, George Shields, John Schmidt, Asher A. Sellers, John Service, David Simpson, Charles Smouse, David L. Simpson, Samuel Stevenson, Lewis Stern, James S. Smith, David Sullivan, Andrew J. Smith, Henry Shaffer, Peter C. Spencer, John Stewart, David C. Simpson, Daniel Tallman, Sterling M. Thomas, Peter Vanoligan, John Vorece, Samuel W. Walker, Isaac Wray, Newton Wilson, Moses White, Conrad Wolf, Henry Wimmer, John Williams, William H. Wilson, Albert C. Wheeler, David Willard, John P. Williamson, Joseph White, Ferdinand Wagner, David K. Williams, George W. Young.

#### 121ST REGIMENT

The regimental organization of the 121st was effected at the camp of rendezvous near Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, with the following field officers: Colonel, Chapman Biddle, of Philadelphia; Lieutenant Colonel, Elisha W. Davis, of Venango county; Major, Alexander Biddle, of Philadelphia. This was in September, 1862. In the following month the regiment joined General Meade's division, which moved southward through Virginia, but with the exception of slight skirmishing had no experience in fighting until it entered upon the Fredericksburg campaign. Its losses, chiefly sustained in the action at Fredericksburg, were 180, and at its close the regiment went into winter quarters at Belle Plain. The spring of 1863 opened with the march to Chancellorsville, and although much worn by fatiguing duty during this campaign it suffered but slight loss. On the first day of the battle of Gettysburg it marched at the head of its brigade, and was engaged in the severe fighting with which that conflict began, sustaining a loss of 179 out of a total of 263 who entered the engagement, more than sixty-five per cent. After the battle the army returned to Virginia. This regiment did not participate in any movement of importance until May, 1864, when the Wilderness campaign occurred, in which it met

the enemy in force on several occasions and performed a variety of difficult and hazardous maneuvers. In the autumn of that year it bore an important part in a raid upon the Weldon railroad; on the 1st of October it was attacked at Peeble's Farm by an overwhelming force of the enemy and nearly half its numbers were captured. But four commissioned officers and eighty-five enlisted men reported for duty the following day. The winter of 1864-65 was spent in camp with the brigade, which engaged in another expedition for the destruction of the Weldon railroad in December, and in February advanced to Hatcher's Run. It was at the front in the final movements upon the enemy's position, and after the surrender of Lee performed guard duty at Appomattox Court House while the Confederate troops were being paroled. It was mustered out of service at Arlington Heights on the 2d of June, 1865.

There were two companies and part of a third from Venango county, with the following rosters:

*Company A:* Captains, George E. Ridgway, James S. Warner, Henry H. Herpst; First Lieutenants, George W. Bickley, Philander R. Gray, John M. Bingham; Sergeants, William H. Potter, William Beck, Julius A. Dunham, Emanuel Widle, Charles G. Connely, Dennis D. Moriarty, Alexander McDowell, William G. Dickey, Francis H. Hilliard; Corporals, Jonathan W. Brink, Samuel Fair, Henry Aten, John B. Allender, Jacob Allebach, John Burns, Henry A. Cornwell, Aaron H. Harrison, Solomon S. Engle; Privates, John Aten, Moore Bridges, Benjamin F. Baldwin, James D. Black, Warren J. Brink, George W. Barnes, James B. Brown, William J. Bingham, James Bailey, Nathaniel Brink, Orin S. Babcock, Calvin D. Bingham, Abraham L. Cosway, Samuel G. Crawford, William J. Connely, John R. Donnelly, James F. Dawson, Philip H. Dillin, Garrett De Mill, William M. Dewoody, William R. Dawson, Sylvester L. Dunham, Thomas W. Eaton, Thomas Fair, Augustus M. Funk, Moses Funk, Andrew J. Gibbons, Jacob Gibbons, Francis Gray, W. W. Gilliland, Levi Grimm, Henry E. Ginter, George Hesler, Joseph B. Hart, Daniel Hoxworth, John F. Hughes, Sidney Heckert, Solomon D. Hughes, James W. Ingham, Ebenezer H. James, Joseph Kellerman, William H. Kelly, John E. Lapsley, Owen Lyons, Chambers Lawrence, Henry H. Mull, Jesse M. Manson, George R. Morris, Thomas A. Morrison, John B. Manson, James P. Manson, Alexander McKinley, Prior McMurray, William A.

McKenzie, William McKenzie, John McCool, Israel T. Phelps, Almiron Parker, David E. Perry, Newton B. Riddle, A. Rhodabarger, Robert B. Rodgers, Franklin F. Sands, William M. Stover, George Shawgo, George Shingledecker, John B. Shaner, W. A. Shingledecker, Henry D. Shaner, George Savage, Alpheus W. Scott, John H. Stroop, T. C. Shelimadine, Nicholas Thompson, David W. Tripp, David O. Tyrrell, Joel C. Usher, Jonathan Wygant, John Wygant, James Withneck, Henry D. Weaver, William C. Waits.

*Company E* had the following men from Venango county: First Lieutenant, George W. Plumer; Sergeants, Richard A. Dempsey, Daniel H. Weikal, John Stevenson; Corporal, R. A. Lehenthaler; Musician, Merrick Davidson; Privates, James Adams, William K. Curtis, Robert J. Green, James McClintock, William Naylor, John W. Tyrrell, Elias Shaffer, John Shaffer, Jr., Abraham Sahm, Washington Tarr, Alonzo Smith, Oscar Fisher.

*Company F:* Captains, John M. Clapp, Nathaniel Lang; First Lieutenants, Joseph K. Byers, Daniel B. Levier; Second Lieutenants, Charles H. Raymond; Sergeants, James Davison, Henry Wise, John Elliott, Samuel T. Bolland, Solomon Rugh, Nathaniel Kahl, Thomas Service; Corporals, Alfred Kech, Augustus I. Glass, Charles Nunemaker, John W. Smiley, Abraham Heckathorn, Blair C. Hood, James Karns, Jeremiah Johnson, Jr., John Phipps, Jacob Shawkey, Joseph Weaver; Musicians, Elias Harman, Alvey C. Amon; Privates, John W. Adams, Henry B. Anderson, W. S. Anderson, Solomon Albaugh, John B. Bell, Henry Borts, William Bell, Dallas Baily, James R. Bell, Daniel Bly, Jr., Abraham Carbaugh, George W. Confer, James A. Clark, John S. Culbertson, David Cribbs, William Douglass, James J. Douglass, Jacob G. Downey, George Douglass, Edward M. Dowling, Samuel J. Dodd, Hiram M. Dale, Henry Frain, Isaac W. Fry, Samuel W. Farmer, Ernest E. Fichte, David W. Farmer, Frederick Glass, Charles Heckathorn, William A. Hopkins, Quimby C. Hall, James H. Heckathorn, Adam Harman, Samuel M. Hays, William P. Hays, William Hawn, Henry Karns, Henry Keely, Amos C. King, Jacob M. Keifer, William Kennedy, Cyrus R. Levier, Peter W. Mohney, John Meyers, Daniel Moran, Solomon McBride, T. B. H. McPherson, William Nellis, Daniel Persing, John W. Ray, Robert Reese, B. D. Robinson, James R. Ray, John Sager, Samuel Stewart, John H. Stoke, John Stone, Alfred Say, Daniel Swaney, William H. Slonaker, Reuben Swab, Simon P. Swab, Leslie L. Say,

John Saulsgiver, Obadiah Simpson, George A. Showens, John F. Tucker, Wesley Q. Tucker, Chester W. Tallman, John S. Wilson, Samuel P. Weaver.

#### 142D REGIMENT

The organization of this regiment occurred at Camp Curtin Sept. 1, 1862, resulting in the choice of Robert P. Cummins, of Somerset county, Colonel; Alfred B. McCalmont, of Venango county, Lieutenant Colonel; John Bradley, of Luzerne county, Major. On the following day it was ordered to Washington, where it was employed in the construction of Fort Stevens; in October it was assigned by General Meade to the 2d Brigade and 3d Division of the 1st Corps. On the 13th of December, 1862, 250 men were killed within the space of one hour at Fredericksburg, out of 550 who had entered that engagement. In February, 1863, the Reserves were transferred to the defenses of Washington where they remained until April 27th, when the 142d moved from camp with a corps that had been ordered to make a diversion in favor of Hooker. It was thus not actively engaged at the battle of Chancellorsville. At Gettysburg, where its hardest fighting was done on the first day of the battle, the aggregate loss was 225. Within a month the two armies were facing each other on opposite banks of the Rappahannock; but nothing of importance in which this regiment was concerned occurred until May of the following year, when the Wilderness campaign engaged its energies. It also bore a part in the operations against Petersburg and in the destruction of the Weldon railroad, in the summer and autumn of 1864. Its last severe fighting occurred at Five Forks, April 1, 1865. After an uneventful period of two months it was mustered out of service May 29, 1865, near Washington.

*Company I*, originally known as the Petroleum Guards, was recruited chiefly at Oil City and was the only distinct organization that left that place during the war. The original officers were Alfred B. McCalmont, Captain; William H. Hasson, First Lieutenant, and Charles E. Houston, Second Lieutenant. The citizens of Oil City gave the company a reception on the 25th of August, 1862; swords were presented Captain McCalmont and Lieutenant Hasson, and a copy of the Bible to each member of the company. Dinner was served on the South Side. The next day they were transported in wagons to Franklin, where similar hospitalities were extended, and proceeded in that manner

to Enon station, whence they departed for Harrisburg, arriving at Camp Curtin on the 27th of August.

The following is a roster of the company: Captains, William Hasson, George R. Snowden, Cyrus H. Culver; First Lieutenant, William H. Rhodes; Second Lieutenant, Charles E. Huston; Sergeants, Oliver P. Young, Abram S. Prather, Thomas Hoge, Conrad Heasley, James K. Elliott, Loren M. Fulton, Johnson W. Carr, Wilson Camp, William Reynolds; Corporals, Jesse B. Moore, George M. Winger, Charles Holbrook, Joshua Foster, John A. Wilcox, William Gorman, David S. Keep, Artemus Hollis, Daniel Weaver; Musician, John G. McLane; Privates, George Best, Henry H. Bogue, Samuel Brown, Martin Bookster, Phillip Bartlebaugh, William Bower, Wesley H. Burgwin, Eli Beatty, James Bower, Israel B. Brown, Robert Craig, George W. Corbin, David Coldrew, Frank W. Chesley, Joseph H. Coburn, Samuel J. Colburn, Peter Demsey, Richard Davis, John Duckett, Jacob Dilmore, Daniel Downing, Eli Egal, William K. Findley, Daniel H. Finch, Herman Gunderman, Simon Grossman, John Gibbons, Philip M. Hatch, James Hill, John W. Hogue, John E. Hogue, David James, W. W. Jennings, Samuel Kelly, Wilson Kennedy, Charles E. Keep, Jacob F. Little, William Laney, James F. Lamb, David Lee, George R. Lockwood, Henry Mellin, Patrick Moran, G. W. Matthews, Samuel Morrison, Adrian G. Manville, Boint McCray, Andrew McCray, James McLane, H. R. McCalmont, Daniel McNaughton, J. G. L. Nyman, L. F. Nicklin, Samuel Ray, John Robinson, Henry Strohman, John Shiffer, John Stiner, Hugh Shaw, Joseph B. Shirley, Owen Slamon, Joseph Small, William J. Sheriff, John W. Sharpnack, James W. Shaw, Jacob A. Shirley, Adam Siverline, W. W. Shelmadine, A. V. Turner, William West, Marcus Wesner, Jeremiah Walden, W. G. Wadsworth, George P. Webber, Josiah Wilcox, William B. Wesner, Jacob Yockey.

#### 161ST REGIMENT—16TH CAVALRY

The 16th Cavalry organized with the following field officers: Colonel, John Irwin Gregg; Lieutenant Colonel, Lorenzo D. Rodgers, of Venango county; Majors, William A. West, William H. Fry, John Stroup. This occurred Nov. 18, 1862, and during the following winter it was encamped at Bladensburg, Md., until Jan. 3, 1863, when it proceeded to the front and was assigned to guard duty at the right flank of the army on the left

bank of the Rappahannock. At Gettysburg Gregg's Brigade, to which the 16th had been assigned, was in position on the extreme right of the Union army; it was partially engaged during the day and evening of July 2d and during the whole of the 3d, sustaining a loss of two killed and a few wounded. The cavalry was put in pursuit of the retreating army on the 5th and frequent encounters occurred. The scene of action changed to Virginia again, and throughout the autumn the regiment was frequently engaged in skirmishes with the enemy. In December it formed part of an expedition for the destruction of factories and munitions of war at Luray in the Shenandoah valley. The principal events of the spring campaign of 1864 were the encounters of May 6th to 12th and the engagement of June 25th; the former occurred about and within the outer defenses of Richmond, and the latter, in which Gregg's Division successfully withheld prolonged attack from a largely superior force, was especially important, as he had a convoy of eight hundred wagons in charge. Later in the same year the regiment took part in several raids for the destruction of the Weldon railroad. It broke camp at Hancock's station Feb. 6, 1865, and was engaged in the final movements about Five Points and Dinwiddie Court House. After Lee's surrender it returned to Petersburg, but was soon afterward led to the North Carolina border to the support of Sherman. After the close of hostilities it was stationed at Lynchburg for a time and at length mustered out of service at Richmond on the 7th of August, 1865.

Venango county was represented in two companies of this regiment, of which the rosters were as follows:

*Company A:* Captains, Seth T. Kennedy, Joshua M. Carey, Robert W. McDowell; First Lieutenants, Robert H. Atkinson, Charles H. Knox, Irving W. Billings, Edmund Dunn; Second Lieutenants, William T. Kennedy, Brewer D. Polley, George D. Beecher; Sergeants, Adolphus R. Baker, William Rossell, Daniel Stauffer, Lyman H. Lewis, James L. Smith, Simon F. Barr, George C. Menning, Samuel L. Brown, Cyrus C. Marsh, John W. Lewis, George W. Annie, Henry M. Gardner, Nicholas Dick, Marvin B. Lyman, Michael Ziester, William M. Frear, Austin Turck; Corporals, Jacob F. Mauk, Robert Foster, David S. Barr, John W. Barr, W. H. H. Morton, John Stoops, William Ley, Thomas Bowel, John Colvin, J. D. Lancaster, Henry Holliday, Sylvester M. Benn, Cornelius Ryan, Maxwell E. Fulton, John Rossman, William N. Decker,

William A. Wright, John Seamans, Whitney Briggs, Josiah M. Demand, Martin V. Townsend; Buglers, Philip A. Carr, Samuel Shaffer, Edward S. Albee; Blacksmiths, Benjamin Davis, Robert Enis, Judson A. Aumick, Henry Sumner; Saddlers, Samuel G. Fulmer, Richard A. Charles; Privates, Lewis Andrews, Thomas J. Archer, John Anderson, Alfred Anton, Herman L. Adams, Harvey A. Aumick, Silas W. Aumick, Joseph H. Brooks, James Brown, John Bundorf, Theron S. Burgess, Freeman Barkman, James Brewer, Alpheus Barnes, William Burns, Casper Bufflapp, Jared A. Bennett, John Busher, Leander Buttermore, Russell Burt, James Burns, Charles Burns, Charles Baker, Thomas Baker, Thomas W. Barr, Marvin Bates, George Buck, James Briscoe, Ellis Bedford, Caleb Britton, Nelson E. Coates, John W. Chapins, George B. Craft, James L. Cook, Charles G. Campbell, Benjamin L. Cook, William W. Cook, Edward Claffrey, William Clark, Osborne Cooley, Henry Davis, Alonzo Day, Benjamin Dick, Jeremiah Duff, Ira E. Davis, Henry W. Decker, James P. Dymond, John Eutsey, Jacob Eutsey, Amos Edick, Andrew Eldercan, William Everts, Gotlieb Foss, James Fleming, John Fulton, Isaac P. Foster, George M. Forrer, Harry H. Faulkner, Homer B. Ferry, Mathew Flanagan, Henry Grimm, John L. Griffin, James Gibson, John K. Grim, Joseph Grim, Harry V. Greenlee, George Galbreath, C. Hendricks, S. Higgenbotham, Francis M. Hickson, S. Hendricks, T. E. Houser, William Houser, John H. Hubler, John Hurley, Charles B. Hickox, G. W. Hunter, Thomas C. Hodnot, Moses Irely, Benjamin F. Johnston, Henry Johnston, E. Johnston, William Kelley, J. Knickerbocker, Jacob Kessler, V. L. Keltz, John W. Kelley, Samuel Kieffer, David P. Kelley, Newton Kuhns, Joseph P. Love, George W. Lengel, David Levy, Robert Lytle, Lafayette Leeland, Joseph Laughrey, William S. Lane, Samuel Myers, William H. Maroney, W. H. Merkle, Michael Mease, Samuel Moore, Franklin Moore, Frederick Martin, John Martin, James May, Henry Munsloe, William Moore, William J. Miles, Lewis A. Mulnie, Francis Murry, Michael Madden, John McMannis, Joseph McMannis, L. J. McClintonck, Charles Nelson, Frank W. Orcutt, Henry M. Osborne, Levi Paddock, H. C. Pinkerton, Charles Phillipi, S. S. Porter, Alfred N. Patterson, Jacob B. Plumley, John F. Phillips, Otis Phelps, William R. Pillow, E. Pickering, George W. Parks, Richard P. Page, Jacob Richter, George Reed, David Rader, William Robertson, Henry D. Reece, James H. Ramsey,

Samuel Rhodabarger, Alonzo Randolph, Robert C. Riggan, Daniel Riser, J. S. Ramsey, Philip D. Reynolds, Thomas Reed, Richard J. Reesc, Samuel W. Swartz, Alfred M. Saylor, Leonard D. Shaffer, John W. Stauffer, Cyrus S. Stauffer, Smith Stauffer, Robert Shields, Patrick Sullivan, Lewis C. Shartel, Dexter Spalding, William Sheets, George A. Shuler, Joseph L. Shrives, Christian Swartz, Jacob C. Smith, George Seighman, John Shoup, Samuel Shoup, Nelson Shufelt, Amzi Stauffer, Joseph B. Saylor, Thomas Sullivan, Ashbel Smith, U. C. Sheets, Thomas Sales, Charles H. Shippey, George Smith, Stephen Squire, Elijah S. Squire, John W. Steele, William N. Squire, John Shook, Ruben Smith, Timothy R. Stutton, H. W. Templin, George W. Townsend, Giles Townsend, Isaac Tiffany, Lyman H. Vaughn, George Winner, Milton Williams, Frank Welsh, H. E. Wadsworth, Nathan Wagoner, Robert Williams, Isaac Wimer, Joseph Wallace, W. H. Wier, W. M. Wood, Thomas S. Waters, W. W. Wills, John J. Wright, W. H. Wright, George W. Warner, Robert B. Wheeler, James H. Ward, William Zuver.

*Company E:* Captains, Loronzo D. Rodgers, Augustus H. Rush, Daniel C. Swank, Enoch H. Moore; First Lieutenants, Lewis B. Brown, Russell R. Pealer, David W. Davis; Second Lieutenant, I. F. Chamberlain; Sergeants, William B. Harlan, Benjamin Jeffries, George D. Jacoby, Nelson Craig, George John, John S. Kelly, John L. Lee, John McClernan, Joseph F. Hicks, Henry W. Seibert, John B. Atwell, Morris O. Conner, Benjamin F. Carnahan, John M. Lane, Marshall Wasson; Corporals, Adam Benner, John Morley, John Spence, Patrick Byron, William H. Bailey, Wesley Callahan, Daniel Kohler, Alfred Bowman, Robert W. Davison, John W. Henderson, William C. Phipps, George W. Webber, Henry W. Bowman, Robert A. Thompson, Lyman H. Fowler, Samuel Chamberlin, Aaron Andreas, Daniel Wasson; Buglers, George L. Patterson, Robert Tipping; Blacksmiths, John S. Hoagland, William R. Hoover; Farrier, John D. Cromer; Saddlers, Richard Tobin, Wesley J. Cooper; Privates, George D. Applegarth, John R. Atwell, Peter S. Ashelman, William F. Andrews, Thomas Burns, John F. Brothers, John C. Baker, Eli Baney, Isaiah Barr, Alva Beemis, W. J. Black, R. A. Biddle, Patrick Campbell, Elijah Clifford, John L. Chambers, Cyrus R. Coulter, W. P. Crain, John G. Crain, Alfred T. Creveling, Jesse B. Coleman, John Campbell, F. W. Creveling, Andrew Crawford, G. Dannanhower, Isaiah

Denvers, Joseph Depue, James F. Davison, James Duncan, Joel M. Dailey, George Derlin, George A. Dull, Matthias Daniels, Thomas J. Eakin, Henry Erwin, William W. Evland, A. W. Evland, Albert Fisher, Darius Fleming, John Furry, John Flowers, Gideon Fry, Joseph Fleckenstine, Edward George, Patrick Gilligan, David Grisinger, Joseph Gifford, W. O. Gibb, John Herring, William Hickey, Thomas Hainey, William Holland, William Hayes, Michael Harmon, Louis M. Haines, Michael Houser, Noah Higgins, George C. Hall, John F. Hoffman, William C. Hull, Jeremiah Horton, Daniel H. Hetler, Samuel A. Hoover, Samuel Irwin, John A. Jobson, Albert Jones, Thomas Jolly, James E. Jones, Jacob F. Knechel, Charles Kreamer, Charles Keyser, W. Kee, J. E. Kepler, John Keicher, Jonathan Knittle, Daniel King, P. P. Kimball, Silas R. Kissner, Enoch B. Karnes, W. B. Keene, George W. Love, Samuel Lee, Samuel Lewis, Simeon L. Lockarde, James B. Logue, Alex Lindsey, James Looney, Benjamin F. Looney, Elias G. Lemmons, George W. Matthews, Dallas Myers, Laurence Marks, John Mullen, Jonas Miller, William H. Matthews, Henry Mowrey, Thomas McGettigen, Charles McCadden, Frank McGovern, John McCammon, William McElhaney, Francis A. Osborn, Joseph G. Piatt, Porter Phipps, William Piffer, Robert C. Pollock, James L. Porter, William Pearson, George W. Peoples, Burell Rolls, Martin Richards, Isaiah Reaver, Joseph Ryan, W. D. Ryan, D. R. Reidenauer, Crispin Roberts, William Rhodes, James Rusk, William Roberts, James H. Roberts, Adam Sampson, Abner Smith, Charles H. Stinger, Daniel R. Snyder, Henry Snider, Adam Sides, John A. Sanna, William H. Say, William Say, Lyman Stewart, John Shreffler, Daniel Smith, Amos Shoutz, Joseph G. Swank, Le Grant Sponberg, G. G. Scott, Riley Stainbrook, Philip Snider, John Staub, William Stringman, Patrick Tooley, John Taylor, Charles W. Vanover, Henry Vanhorn, Jr., Alvin Varner, Job Walford, George Williams, William Whartenby, Henry Whipple, Andrew Weitzer, Abram Witherup, George Warden, Hiram Witmoir, John H. Yaple.

The foregoing regimental sketches and company rosters were compiled from Bates' History of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, a voluminous work and recognized authority. The histories of the different regiments have necessarily been greatly abbreviated, but rosters have been given of all the companies in which Venango county was represented to any ex-

tent. Though there were also a number of other regiments to which the county contributed, it is believed that the essential particulars regarding the part taken by the county have been given.

*The Lamberton Guards* was an organization formed in 1862 when Lee invaded Maryland and threatened Pennsylvania. The officers were: Capt. William M. Epley; First Lieutenant Pinkerton, and Second Lieutenant James Adams. They proceeded to Harrisburg, but returned after the battle of Antietam without experiencing any actual military service.

The activities of the people on behalf of the prosecution of the war were not limited to the contribution of troops. There were a number of Soldiers' Aid Societies throughout the county, and the contributions of money, hospital supplies, and other comforts and necessities made through these agencies represented in the aggregate a large expenditure of energy and effort. There was a Home Relief Association and a Soldiers' Aid Dime Society at Franklin; the Soldiers' Aid Society of Plum township was organized in the autumn of 1861, and a similar association in Sugar Creek was formed in September, 1862. On Aug. 11, 1862, a public meeting was held at the court house for the purpose of raising a bounty fund for volunteers from this county, James Bleakley presiding. After addresses by Arnold Plumer, Elisha W. Davis and others, a committee was appointed to request from the county commissioners an appropriation of fifty dollars to each volunteer. Throughout the war the commissioners contributed regularly toward the support of the families of absent soldiers, and while organized assistance was thus rendered, public benefactions were augmented by many acts of private charity.

*The Soldiers' Monument*, situated in South park at Franklin, was erected immediately after the close of the war, to express in enduring and appropriate form the appreciation of the county at large for the patriotic services and sacrifices of the citizens who fell "on the field of battle, in hospitals, and at home; who died of wounds received in battle, of sickness incurred in camp, of starvation in the hands of the enemy." The dedication occurred Sept. 10, 1866. The survivors of the war from this county marched in a body to the park, and it is estimated that ten thousand people witnessed the ceremonies. Revs. S. J. M. Eaton, D. D., M. A. Tolman and J. B. Lyon conducted the religious exercises; addresses were delivered by Dr. Eaton, Galusha A. Grow, and John S.

McCalmont. On the monument are inscribed the names of four hundred soldiers, "Venango's contribution to the death-roll of patriotism."

In Oil City a fund has been recently subscribed for a monument to the "Boys in Blue," and the money has been put at interest. In the near future this memorial of a people's gratitude will be erected to the heroes of two wars, the Civil war and the war waged "to make the world safe for democracy."

#### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Keenly interested in the affairs of the wide, wide world as Venango county always has been, the events leading up to the Spanish-American war were the subject of grave consideration. Venango county, a spot on the map small to be sure, has by reason of its gifts become a radiating center. Far-flung are its productions, and men from western Pennsylvania are found laboring in their vocations in every country on the globe. Consequently the interest in Cuba at that time was intense. Grover Cleveland had said in his message to Congress that the situation there and this country's duty could not long be unnoted, and must be acted upon. Some other means than war was expected to clear the way for health and happiness in that oppressed island. But when "reconcatrado" was a familiar word in every home, and meant a definite disturbing factor, men who hated war and feared it and who knew the nation's unpreparedness looked on with something like fear. William McKinley, who like General Sherman knew what war is, held his country back until he was compelled by that raucous slogan, "Remember the Maine," to bow his troubled head to the oncoming storm. The full and free criticism possible in a republic had convinced many people that America had no navy, that she could be wiped out by a few Spanish ships. A shiver proceeded up the entire New England coast when Cervera's fleet was spoken of or even thought of in the dead watches of the night. It was not so bad in the daytime, when as a rule common sense reigns somewhat. But patriotism rose in a mighty flood at the idea of America being greatly disturbed, not to say conquered, by any foe. The situation in Venango county may be given best by facts from the report of Col. (afterward Gen.) Willis Hulings to the adjutant general of Pennsylvania.

It is a matter of rejoicing and of pardonable pride that the men of the 16th Regiment were

of such splendid character. The boys from this country came from the homes of intelligence and culture. They deserved all the commendation they received. And it is a historical fact of importance that they were ably commanded and led. The 16th Regiment was the only regiment in Pennsylvania, and so far as can be learned in the United States, that responded to a man with a full quota of officers to the call of the president for volunteers. This word which came back to the homes from Mt. Gretna was greeted with joy. Not a family was willing that its sons should be the ones to break this splendid record. After a short time in Florida, during which there were drills and field manoeuvres, the 16th was chosen with two others out of an army corps of fifty-eight thousand men to advance upon Puerto Rico. Major Reed meanwhile, and Lieutenant Colonel Rickards, had been ordered to recruit men for the service and were eminently successful in that work. On July 21st the regiment sailed from Charleston under sealed orders. The destination was Fajardo. On arriving and finding no fleet there the men proceeded to search the coast for General Wilson, who had sailed a day ahead. They found him and the fleet at Ponce, which city was then in the possession of the United States troops. The regiment moved forward under orders and found the Spanish hastening their departure, and the people generally glad to welcome the soldiers. But this condition was not continuous, and the troops advanced amid difficulties that tried them sorely at times. The country was entirely unknown to the men, and war was not a picnic at that time. The men from Venango county were equal to the occasion. Their courage and determination and skill in mastering problems have been admired and praised by historians, and by military men of long and varied experience. The battle of Coamo, in which so many Company D and Company F men took part, was one of the striking and spectacular engagements of the Spanish-American war. The officers of the regiment, the men of all companies, displayed true American nerve and dash. General Hulings' report makes especial mention of the work of Major Reed, Captains McElhinney and Lyons, and Lieutenants Bradley, Young and Daub. Private Jolly of Company F was wounded and bore his hurt with fortitude. During this action other captains were not so actively engaged as these mentioned by reason of their positions, but Captains James, Barr and Wheelock are spoken of as having played their part well. Major Reed, and Cap-

tains Burns, McElhinney and Lyons, were with Lieutenant Fennerty recommended for promotion for gallant conduct in the face of the enemy. General Hulings explains that in fairness others should have been recommended, but he could not include the entire roster. Adjutants Robertson and Scheide, and Lieutenants Hasson, Loomis, Turner, Johnston, Bradley, Young, Daub, Schaffer, all won honorable mention. The officers without exception were commended. Lieutenant Corrin, Sergeant Major Richy and the Regimental Chaplain, W. B. Lowry, all received testimonials to their efficiency.

Colonel Rickards under special orders was sent to Pennsylvania from Camp Thomas to recruit an additional battalion for the 16th Regiment. His success was surprising. In a short time he had mustered in four companies of three officers and 106 men. In three days he recruited forty-seven men in Oil City, closed the station, and hoped he was starting for the scene of war, but by reason of delays and arduous work he was prevented from joining the 16th until a later date.

Lieutenant Colonel Rickards reached Puerto Rico Sept. 22d, with the 3d Battalion. They remained at Ponce until Oct. 11th, when they sailed for the United States, and in December of that year were mustered out of service, after having been furloughed by the War Department for sixty days. Col. Willis J. Hulings was appointed brigadier general United States Volunteers, and Col. George C. Rickards assumed command of the regiment.

Venango county met her returning warriors with proper pride and sufficient celebration. They had faced danger, and had survived, they had offered themselves in a true spirit of patriotism to their country, and no one at home was sorry that the war on that "Loud Sabbath" was ended so soon. There had been anxiety enough for all. There was "glory enough for all." Cervera going back to Spain on the old "City of Rome," detailed for that service, sitting in the room given to him surrounded by comfort, must have felt in perfect harmony with the pale blue decorations which covered its walls, for no sadder soul ever sailed the trackless sea. But he had nobility to recognize a foe who exacted no humiliating conditions and who paid him personal respect. He spoke at home, it is told, of the experience of all officers and men of the courage and fine qualities of the young men of the New World.

The following members of the 16th Regiment were all from Venango county:

W. H. Corrin, First Lieutenant and Quartermaster.

John Russell Robertson, First Lieutenant and Adjutant.

William S. Couch, Quartermaster Sergeant.

John L. Hay, promoted from Corporal, Company D, to Quartermaster Sergeant.

Colonel, Willis J. Hulings, Oil City, Pa.; resident Oil City (N. G. P.); enrolled April 27, 1898; mustered in May 10, 1898; in command of 3d Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Artillery Corps, from May 7, 1898, to July 4, 1898, inclusive; in command of Regiment during engagement at Coamo, P. R., Aug. 9, 1898; commissioned Brigadier General, U. S. V., Sept. 25, 1898; relinquished command of regiment, Oct. 17, 1898.

J. Murray Reed, Major, appointed to hold F. O. C. June 4, 1898; on recruiting service June 10 to 23, 1898; appointed Aug. 23, 1898, to hold Regt. S. Cv., and relieved Sept. 16, 1898.

Alexander P. Richey, Sergeant Major.

Lieut. Col. George Collins Rickards, in command of regiment May 17 to July 2, 1898; on detached service as mustering and recruiting officer July 2 to July 22, 1898, when assigned to command of 3d Battalion of this regiment, and continued in command of this Battalion to its arrival at Ponce, P. R., Sept. 22, 1898; reporting to Brigadier General Henry, U. S. V., was there retained with Battalion; joined the regiment Oct. 11, 1898; commissioned colonel Oct. 12, 1898; accepted commission and assumed command of regiment Oct. 17, 1898; mustered in with new rank Nov. 30, 1898; and mustered out Dec. 28, 1898.

Millard Scheide, Second Lieutenant and Battalion Adjutant.

*Company A:* Privates George Gordon, Harry C. Hartley, William J. McGreevey, Alfred H. Thumwood, John Thumwood.

*Company B:* Corporal Frank A. Zinn.

*Company C:* Privates Byron L. Cole, William M. Montgomery, Fred G. Peterman, Clayton E. Poland, Fred E. Zubler.

*Company D:* Capt. David K. James; First Lieut. James Hasson; Second Lieut. William B. Loomis; Sergeants Harry L. Rogers (first sergeant), Nathan A. Beigley, John H. Camp, Albert S. Fry, Marcus Hulings; Corporals Edwin E. Beighley, Harry M. Berry, Fred P. Barbour, Harry M. Brown, Leroy S. Cousins, John L. Hays, Marcus Hulings, John W. Lynch, William S. Lytle, Harry W. Sherick, William V. Thomas, George W. Varnes, Ardell West; Musician Howard O. Bensinger; Privates Frank L. Agens, Frederick P. Bar-

bour, John W. Bascom, Henry A. Bear, Joseph McE. Bell, Robert Bernard, J. Louis Bessler, Frank E. Bickel, William H. Blair, Robt. Boden, Chas. H. Bromley, George A. Brown, Harry M. Brown, Wm. S. Brown, Edwin W. Brush, John J. Cann, Milton M. Cochran, Harry Colbert, Burt A. Connor, Thos. C. Conroy, Douglas T. Cooper, Jno. E. Corbett, Leroy S. Cousins, Clide Culp, Talbert R. Dale, Walter C. Dale, Floyd Davis, Frank J. Dugan, Arthur W. Drohen, George E. Dunmire, William G. Eckert, Frank W. Estep, Joseph B. Fitzpatrick, Elton H. Folwell, Chas. H. Gayetty, Chas. F. Gilmore, Arthur R. Graham, Edward Grasser, Roy O. Greenfield, Joseph A. Hanner, Frank J. Hanton, Christopher C. Heckathorne, Jno. Heckathorne, Arthur K. Helle, Chas. Hensell, Arthur Hutchinson, Timothy Hynes, Wm. H. Kelley, Arthur C. Kightlinger, Charles D. Landis, Harry T. Seyland, Wm. B. Long, Jno. W. Lynch, Clarence E. Martin, Gilbert Martin, Edward J. McDonnell, Thos. J. McDonnell, Henry H. McGregor, Edward M. McKinney, Roy C. Meals, Edward M. Metz, Robert E. Moorhead, Leonard A. Morgan, George A. Morrison, Henry A. Morse, John H. Nilsson, Robert G. Prosser, William B. Ralph, Jr., Robert J. Rayner, John Ready, Edwin A. Reed, Birton G. Reninger, Harry L. Rhoades, James L. Robbins, Burt C. Rogers, Thadeus Ross, Frederick W. Schack, William F. Shanfelter, Harry W. Sherick, John W. Siegel, William G. Skelly, Thomas H. Stapleton, Charles W. Steen, Harry S. Stephenson, Jacob Swarteslander, Vernon S. Swisher, Samuel S. Sweitzer, Boon Turner, George W. Varnes, Matthew Welsh, Ardell West, Rene Wilhelm.

*Company E:* Capts. James McElhinney (Acting Major, 2d Battalion, June 10 to 22, and from Sept. 17 to Oct. 17, inclusive), William Robertson; First Lieut. Harry B. Bradley; Second Lieuts. Edwin Beaty, Harry C. Farringer; First Sergeant James G. Karns; Quartermaster Sergeant Alfred Rodgers; Sergeants John W. Arters, Harry C. Farringer, Homer J. Hanna; Corporals Claude E. Barnes, Charles P. Barnes, Clarence Gates, Parker R. Kinnear, Frank Moyer, Melvin A. Ray, Loyd Reed, Clinton B. Richey, Frank Robertson, William Robertson, Earl Slonaker, James T. Smith, Anson Snyder; Privates Ray M. Adams, George Daniel Baker, Charles P. Barnes, Harry E. Beers, Charles W. Bell, James F. Billingsley, Chas. E. Bishop, Jr., Frank P. Blair, Wm. H. Brandon, Alonzo Burchfield, L. Earl Burns, Crawford Burton, John

W. Cauvel, John J. Clark, Dennis J. Connell, John Connery, Howard DeWoody, Fred O. Duffield, Jasper M. Duncan, Frank Engles, Charles A. Foster, John E. Fox, Philip R. Gardner, Edward A. Glass, Blake W. Gordon, Ora M. Haizlett, John Harmon, Fred M. Henlen, Clifford Homan, George Hutchinson, Sam'l Jones, Parker R. Kinnear, Guy H. Luper, Donald W. Maddox, Jesse M. Manson, George Marsh, Lewis A. Matteson, James A. McDevitt, John B. McDonald, Clyde L. Moore, Norman C. Neely, Wilbur Nelson, Kyle D. Noel, Harry Pick, John G. B. Plante, Loyd Reed, Duff Reynolds, Thos. B. Reynolds, Lewis N. Ribb, Frank Robertson, William Robertson, Albert Rowley, Audley J. Seeley, Judd M. Sharp, Frederick Shearer, Jay H. Sigworth, Earl Slonaker, Geo. E. Smith, James T. Smith, Albert H. Snyder, Anson Snyder, Chas. A. Stockwell, Chas. H. Stover, Thos. D. Sullivan, Frank C. Tucker, Clarence E. West, Arthur A. Whittaker, Clyde R. Zuver.

*Company F:* Capt. Frank Barr, on detached service at brigade headquarters, May 17-June 20, 1898, as acting Actg. A. A. G. per S. O. of 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Corps; First Lieut. Chris. E. Johnson; Second Lieut. Bert S. Shaffer; Sergeants Clarence Wilson, Walter E. Dunn, James A. Mawhinney, John E. Ritchey; Quartermaster Sergeant Clarence Turner; Corporals Robert P. Anderson, James B. Askey, William S. Fitzgerald, Myron M. Cutshal, Charles V. Duncan, Robert E. Lytle, Daniel McVey, William E. Moore, Nathan O'Connor, Thomas A. Walker; Privates George P. Albrecht, Fred R. Baker, James S. Barrett, Alexander Beers, Albert H. Brandon, Charles H. Brennan, Wessel M. Brodhead, Robert C. Brundage, Edward L. Burnham, Harry E. Bushnell, John R. Canan, Clement M. Carew, John A. Clark, Accie J. Collingwood, James Connell, Jr., Myron M. Cutshall, James B. DeWoody, Thomas R. Disler, Burton A. Downey, Charles V. Duncan, Thomas St. C. Elliott, Willoughby G. Engle, Francis J. Forquer, Ellery W. Frankenberger, Clyde French, Wade B. Gault, Arthur J. Griffin, Charles D. Grimm, Fred A. Hullett, Frank A. Hanes, James Hanna, Hans Hansen, Joseph L. Harrison, Harry Hedglin, William Higgins, William A. Hoffman, William Homan, George S. Hugus, Harvey A. Johnson, Thomas H. Johnson, Errol V. Jolley, Ira P. Jones, Daniel Kaylor, Walter F. Keplinger, Ralph C. Lane, Peter Larson, Edward E. Leach, David T. Lewis, Frank L. Ludwick, Robert E. Lytle, Harry R. Marks, Charles L. Martin, Millard McClure, James G. McCon-

nell, Wade H. McKee, John W. McKeon, Frank B. McVey, Speros P. Melonikos, Wilkin T. Moffitt, Robert F. Moore, William C. Morris, William E. Murrin, Charles H. Myers, Joseph L. Neeley, Francis C. Nicklin, Oscar L. Nitsel, Nathan O'Connor, Charles A. Remp, Henry J. Rice, Marcus M. Rose, Arthur V. Ross, Frank S. Ross, Aurie M. Rugh, Frank Savard, Frank J. Schmeltzer, Lewis Shorts, Edward T. Simpson, William O. Simpson, Harry S. Small, Edward W. Smiley, Francis Smith, Leslie N. Smith, Harry B. Snow, George C. Stephenson, Edward E. Stokely, Monte V. Sutton, Thomas Thompson, John A. Titzel, Jr., Hosea Vincent, Andrew S. Voorhies, John E. Walbourn, Albert L. Wenzel, Charles E. Wood, Fred F. Ziegler.

*Company H:* Privates Jacob E. Fink, Robert Funk, Frank Gormley, Charles Patterson, William Warham, George H. Williams.

*Company I:* Privates Manford L. Clark, Zack B. Cooper, Culver L. Courson, Fred W. Dolby, James Edwards, Edgar Mubghis, Windsor H. Pieres.

*Company K:* Sergeant Simmons Clyde; Corporals Harry J. Boles, Audley V. Zuver; Privates William R. Barton, Henry S. Bates, Harry J. Boles, Clyde S. Coates, Fred Conway, Harry N. Feely, Charles Fleischman, Richard Fleishman, Clarence N. Gerin, Harry Gottman, Elmer E. Grant, William W. Hause, James B. Lafferty, Samuel F. McLauchlin, Leon E. Odell, Frank O'Leary, Richard J. O'Leary, Barney Oney, John C. Reed, Milford F. St. John, William Torpey, Audley V. Zuver.

*Company L:* Privates Herbert R. Burns, Jay W. Evans, James L. Foley.

*Company M:* Privates James F. Curran, Walter Shorthouse, Frank Silbert, William Thompkins, Ira H. Wilson.

#### LATEST MILITARY ACTIVITIES

Turning the new leaf of military history of Venango county, we find the same devotion to an ideal that has persisted through the years. Were the ear delicately attuned the echoes of marching feet might be heard. The footsteps of Venango county men from Revolutionary days down to 1918 have tended toward the front. Nothing ever gave the idealist so fervent hope as the response made by the youth of the land to the thrilling call of war in 1917. Through the world, it seems, will always go this surge of life clear and pure and strong. The boy who, to quote Kipling, "started as a average kid, became a thinking

man" at once. That he was needed by his country was an idea so great and so beautiful that it could not be resisted by many a youth who had to forget the exact date of his birth in order to enlist.

Company D and Company F were soon at full strength and needed nothing but adequate training to become worthy of all past tradition. After some months spent in Mexico in a purely military atmosphere and in healthful surroundings the soldiers returning surprised their old neighbors by their superb bearing. The time seemed short to those who loved them until they went away one day in early spring to the camps which were but gateways opening upon a wide and fearful field. Who that heard it will forget the bugle note that called them together for the last march along the home road toward the camp and then to "Somewhere in France"? They went away with light upon them from their father's eyes, and said farewell to mothers whose faces brought to mind Murillo's masterpiece, for upon them had come the look of one who gives a Messiah for the world's deliverance. Knights of Christ those boys became from that day forth.

The tales they told, the letters they wrote, all tended to stimulate patriotism. Volunteers were numerous. The aviation schools called many, and all modern lines of military activity lured these ardent young sons of Venango. When conscription became the law of the land the feeling that it was just, that America played no favorites, stirred every heart. The country turned out in imposing parades to honor the registrants, many of whom were soon to answer the roll call at the Draft Board rooms. New and strange as it all was, the county took up its work. There was work for all. The enormous number of men to be made comfortable found the old mother with her knitting needles and the young one with her skillfully made surgical dressings, equally needed. History repeated itself, but with modern embellishments which added new interests and new terrors. In nearly every home in this county the Red Cross hung its pathetic appeal in the window. Money was poured out like water. "Over the top" went everybody in giving and in that deep enthusiasm which is translated into energy. On days when draftees went away business was suspended in the towns and thousands of men and women and little wondering children lifted their eyes toward the Star Spangled Banner of hope and light. The names of these men are given in this volume, but no volume

can enshrine adequately the deeds of heroism and of sublime sacrifice these sons of Venango have performed. To be worthy of those who return will be difficult, but to be worthy of those who sleep in graves in France, with the home flag waving gently above their rest and with France like a brooding mother watching over them, will be more difficult still.

Mention must be made of the patriotic impulse which made the war gardens a factor in winning the war. Men who had never seen a hoe, except perhaps in the picture of Millet's, or looked into the eye of a potato, had new joys and trials in their novel gardening. The conservation of food and all that it implied made the life of homekeeping women one of strenuous endeavor. Women who for twenty-five years had never varied a recipe evolved new methods of doing things, and applied all the fervor of discoverers to small economies. All these things played a part which in the aggregate must have been large, since the results are spectacular. Every suggestion of the Fuel department was considered. The name of Hoover became a household word. Children ate crusts rapidly lest Hoover might "get them." Women watched the outgoings from the sugarbowl with solicitude. These all have place in the annals of the military history of Venango county. The acceptance of conditions and the enthusiastic response to all appeals was simply unanimous and in spirit splendid. A community of feeling between widely separated groups of women is one of the rich results of this war. The mother of the millionaire soldier and that of the poorest shop boy to-day belong in America to a proudly acknowledged sisterhood.

Nearly two thousand men entered the service from Venango county, enrolled in the aviation branch, the navy, the artillery and various infantry organizations. All their names should appear on the "Rolls of Honor" of the Franklin and Oil City Districts, on which entries are yet being added slowly. That of Franklin at present contains about three hundred names, Oil City's over a thousand. In time these lists will probably be about the same size. Besides the ordinary delays experienced in attempting to make up accurate records, both towns have had trouble in getting the printing done, and procuring the markers which designate the wounded, the killed, and those who have died from other causes. The lists of the Home Service Section of the Red Cross in each of these towns are much fuller than any other lists in existence. Many of the names which they have do not appear on

the Rolls of Honor. The Home Service Section of the Red Cross in Franklin had compiled a list of those who had volunteered or had been drafted from Franklin or from that part of the county called the Franklin District. The same is true of the Home Service Section of the Red Cross in Oil City. Hundreds of young men from this county were scattered over the oil fields of the South and West, from Texas to California, and in intermediate States. A great number of these enlisted where they were working, still referring back to their home towns, sending their allotments back, and were reported to the Home Service Section of the Red Cross and thus a record has been made, but whether it is complete or not can not now be determined.

#### 112TH U. S. INFANTRY

Though Venango's citizens in this organization were really only a small proportion of the total number who went into the service from here, probably not one quarter, the county was undoubtedly better represented among the forty-five hundred men who served in the 112th U. S. Infantry in the course of the war, especially in Companies D and F, than in any other regiment. Company D was recruited in Oil City principally—the city's old company. Company F in the same way from Franklin. There is an armory in Oil City and one in Franklin also. These two companies belonged to the National Guard and volunteered as units. But there are men from both cities belonging to other companies, for example among the staff officers were Capt. James C. Shaw, Franklin, Regimental Adjutant; First Lieut. Charles R. Galbraith, Franklin, 1st Battalion Adjutant; First Lieut. Ralph D. McLouth, Oil City, afterward made captain, Supply Company. A number of Oil City and Franklin men were also in the Headquarters and Supply Companies of the 112th. First Lieut. William R. Wadsworth, Jr., of Oil City, entered Company H, 112th Infantry (formerly of Company D).

A brief account of this "Our Own Regiment," the 112th, 28th Division, written in 1917, follows:

This regiment is a composite organization, made up largely out of two infantry units of the Pennsylvania National Guard, the 16th Pennsylvania Infantry, National Guard, and the 8th Pennsylvania National Guard.

By proclamation of the President, dated July 3, 1917, all the officers and men of the Penn-

sylvania National Guard were discharged from the Pennsylvania National Guard on Aug. 5, 1917, and thereafter have been a part of the United States Army entirely divorced and separated from State supervision and control.

At the time of its call to Federal service the Pennsylvania National Guard was organized into a division known as the 7th. On being released from State control the Pennsylvania National Guard became the 28th Division. The regiments of the division, on the date of the call, were organized on the basis of one hundred and fifty men per infantry company, with three regiments to a brigade and three infantry brigades to a division.

At varying dates in September, 1917, the division assembled in mobilization camp, "Camp Hancock," Augusta, Ga., the 16th Pennsylvania Infantry arriving Sept. 10, 1917, and the 8th Pennsylvania Infantry on Sept. 12, 1917.

In accordance with instructions from the Adjutant General of the Army, the 28th Division was reorganized by General Order No. 22, Headquarters 28th Division, dated Oct. 11, 1917. Thereafter the old 16th Pennsylvania National Guard became known as the "112th Infantry," required to have two hundred and fifty men and six officers per company, and being one of the two regiments composing the 56th Infantry Brigade. In compliance with this order, sufficient men were transferred from the 8th Infantry to complete the requisite number called for in the new Table of Organization, which transfer was accomplished under date of Oct. 17, 1917. At the same time all officers of the 8th Infantry were attached to the 112th Infantry, and such of them as were needed to fill the existing vacancies were assigned to this regiment for duty. The plan followed in the transfer was to assign both officers and men from the 8th Pennsylvania Infantry to units in the 112th Infantry, corresponding with the one in which they served in the 8th Pennsylvania Infantry, so far as they were needed or available to bring those units to the numerical strength fixed by the new Table of Organization. The nucleus around which the new organization was built was the 16th Pennsylvania Infantry, National Guard, which bears an enviable record of valiant service to State and country. Organized in 1878, with Gen. John A. Wiley, a veteran of the Civil war, as its first colonel, it has had since its organization but three colonels: Gen. John A. Wiley, from Dec. 3, 1878, to Jan. 25, 1887; Gen. Willis J. Hulings,

from March 3, 1887, to Aug. 28, 1907, and its present commander, Col. George C. Rickards, from Sept. 9, 1907.

During the Spanish-American war this regiment saw service in Porto Rico and participated in several engagements, in which it bore its part well, as can be easily ascertained by reference to the War Department records. During the Porto Rican campaign Colonel Hulings was promoted to brigadier general and Colonel Rickards to colonel in command of the regiment. At the close of the war and muster out of Federal service, General Hulings and Colonel Rickards, respectively, resumed their rank as colonel and lieutenant colonel of the regiment.

At the close of the Spanish-American war the regiment was reorganized by bringing in five companies of the old 15th Pennsylvania Infantry, National Guard, which went out of existence at the end of that war. The old 16th is a country regiment, with companies scattered in the thriving oil and manufacturing towns and cities of western Pennsylvania. Oil City, the headquarters of the regiment, is the home station of three units, Headquarters, Supply and "D" Companies; Corry of "A" Company; Bradford of "C," Machine Gun Company and Sanitary Detachment; Kane of "E" Company; Franklin of "F" Company; Erie of "G" Company; Ridgway of "H" Company; Warren of "I" Company; Kittanning of "K" Company; Butler of "L" Company, and Grove City of "M" Company.

Colonel Rickards, the commander of this regiment, is an officer of unusual ability and force, kindly in his treatment of officers and men, yet so firm and forceful in all his dealings with them that he easily has the very best of discipline among the troops of his command.

Lieutenant Colonel Gamble served in the Spanish-American war as a captain in the 15th Pennsylvania U. S. Volunteers, and later came into the 16th Infantry, National Guard of Pennsylvania, at the end of that war. He is a physician and surgeon of large practice in private life, who has sacrificed all thought of monetary gains, coming from a large and lucrative practice to give to his country the benefit of his service and experience in this hour of crisis.

Among the officers now serving with the Regiment are men of ability and prominence in their home localities, among whom may be mentioned Maj. Charles B. Smathers, an educator of large experience in the service of the State of Pennsylvania, at the time of the call

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on the State Board of Education. He, too, is a veteran of the Spanish-American war. The field and line officers of this regiment include men of prominence in all walks of life in the communities from which they come, doctors, lawyers, educators, merchants, engineers, all giving up, willingly, their lucrative civil employments to enter the service of the country, at large financial loss to themselves and families.

The 16th Pennsylvania Infantry was mustered into United States service in the Spanish-American war May 10, 1898, as the 16th Pennsylvania Volunteers. Again it saw Federal service in 1916, when on June 24, 1916, it mobilized at Mt. Gretna, Pa., under the call of the president dated June 18, 1916, and was mustered into the Federal service for Mexican border duty on July 3, 1916, serving until muster out in January, 1917, when the several company units were mustered out of the Federal service at their respective home stations at various dates in the month of January, 1917.

The 8th Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard, from which the 112th drew largely in making up its strength to that required by the new Table of Organization, comes from the central part of Pennsylvania, at all points radiating from the State capitol at Harrisburg, having companies stationed as follows: Harrisburg, Companies "D" and "I," Supply Company, Headquarters Company and Machine Gun Company; York, two companies; Chambersburg, one company; Bedford, one company; Carlisle, one company; Huntingdon, one company; Pottsville, one company; Mahanoy City, one company; Tamaqua, one company. Thus the old 8th Pennsylvania Infantry was typically representative of the geographical central part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and bears an enviable reputation historically, it having participated in the inaugural ceremonies at Washington, D. C., of nine presidents of the United States, from James A. Garfield to Woodrow Wilson, both inclusive. It participated also in a military capacity at the inaugural ceremonies of ten governors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, from Governor Hartranft, in 1876, to John K. Tener, in 1911, both inclusive. At the seventy-fifth anniversary of the battle of North Point and the bombardment of Fort McHenry at Baltimore, Md., the 8th Pennsylvania Infantry was present, representing the Pennsylvania Division on that occasion. From its organization in 1874 until it entered into the World war the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment has

taken part in a military way in many State and National ceremonies, including the Centennial parade in Philadelphia in 1876 and the Jubilee parade in Philadelphia at the close of the Spanish-American war.

In all the mining and railroad strikes or disorders in Pennsylvania it was always depended upon for the preservation and maintenance of order. As such it was present at Pittsburgh, Pa., during the railroad riots in 1876; at Shamokin, Pa., in 1875, during "Molly Maguire Riots"; at Mahanoy City miners' riots in 1876; Homestead, Pa., Carnegie steel strike in 1892; Hazleton anthracite coal strike in 1897; Shenandoah, Pa., anthracite coal strike in 1900, and again at Shenandoah, Pa., in 1902.

The Regiment was organized in 1874 with the election of John P. S. Gobin, of Lebanon, Pa., as colonel, who later, during the Spanish-American war in 1898, was brigadier general, commanding the 8th Pennsylvania U. S. Volunteer Infantry (8th Pennsylvania National Guard), the 12th Pennsylvania U. S. Volunteer Infantry (12th Pennsylvania National Guard) and the 3d Virginia U. S. Volunteer Infantry at Camp Alger, Va., and later at Camp Meade near Middletown, Pa. At the termination of hostilities with Spain the 12th Pennsylvania U. S. Volunteer Infantry and the 3d Virginia U. S. Volunteer Infantry Regiments were mustered out of the United States service, but the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment was retained in the service, and during the winter of that year, 1898, it was sent to Augusta, Ga., and was camped on part of the ground of what is now (1918) known as Camp Hancock, Ga. It was mustered out of the Federal service in March, 1899, after a service of eleven months. With the other National Guard regiments the 8th Pennsylvania Infantry served on the Mexican border in 1916-1917 and was noted for its high degree of efficiency attained there.

The personnel of the officers of the old 8th Pennsylvania Infantry before its consolidation with the 16th Pennsylvania Infantry into the 112th U. S. Infantry was second to none. They were men of the highest standing, character and integrity, to whom personal sacrifice in the service of their country was an honor and a privilege. The colonels commanding the 8th Pennsylvania Regiment have in the past been representative citizens in the communities wherein they resided, always willingly serving the State to the detriment of their private or business affairs, Col. John P. S. Gobin, afterward lieutenant governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Col. Frank J. Magee, Col. Theodore F. Hoffman, Col. Joseph B.

Hutchinson, Col. Maurice E. Finney having in turn been the commanding officers of the regiment. They need no eulogy. The names of these men speak for themselves. The long list of lieutenant colonels of the regiment have been men of the same caliber, the last being Lieut. Col. Frank E. Ziegler, a lawyer of prominence from Harrisburg, Pa., who gave up his life upon the altar of his country when he died in its service in February, 1918, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as the result of an accident incurred in the performance of his duties.

Composed of two old Pennsylvania volunteer regiments, the 112th Infantry went into the conflict ready and willing to a man to support the flag and the government it represented with their life's blood if need be, on any battle-fields of the world, so that liberalism, justice and freedom shall prevail throughout its realms.

*Staff Officers of the 112th Infantry:* Col. George C. Rickards; Lieut. Col. Robert B. Gamble; Capt. James C. Shaw, Regimental Adjutant; First Lieut. Charles R. Galbraith, Jr., 1st Battalion Adjutant; First Lieut. Frank L. Ruffing, 2d Battalion Staff; First Lieut. Howard Gibson, 3d Battalion Adjutant; Second Lieut. Raymond D. Evans, attached; Second Lieut. Louis R. Abel, Scout Officer; Second Lieut. Joshua G. Swartz, Scout Officer; First Lieut. Ralph D. McLouth, Supply Company.

*Officers, Sanitary Detachment:* Maj. William C. Hogan, Regimental Surgeon; Capt. Charles H. Furnee, M. C.; First Lieut. Benjamin F. White, Jr., M. C.; First Lieut. John L. Goode, M. C.; First Lieut. Locke E. Heabler, M. C.; First Lieut. Charles J. Trullinger, M. C.; First Lieut. Theodore A. Little, M. C.

*Officers, Sanitary and Supply Company:* Capt. Byron S. Behney, D. C.; First Lieut. Oren W. Wallace, D. C.; First Lieut. Floyd D. Soverol, D. C.; First Lieut. Willis W. Hall, Chaplain.

*Officers, Headquarters Company:* Capt. Paul E. Zeigler; First Lieut. John G. Wiestling; First Lieut. Sylvanus A. Fenno; Second Lieut. George A. Dale; Second Lieut. Cyrus G. Whitehill; Second Lieut. Godfrey D. Smith.

*Officers, Machine Gun Company:* Capt. Edgar L. Rhone; First Lieut. Allen M. Cordell; First Lieut. Charles H. Skellie; Second Lieut. Conrad P. Zimmerman; Second Lieut. William F. Cutting; Second Lieut. Carl Freehafer.

The work quoted above, regarding the make-up of the 112th Regiment, showed the following rosters for D and F Companies:

*Company D*, from Oil City, had officers and men as follows: Capt. James M. Henderson; First Lieut. Josiah P. Wilbur; First Lieut. James E. Dillon; First Lieut. Milford W. Fradenberg; Second Lieut. Walter J. Flynn; First Sergeant George H. Bradley; Supply Sergeant Edwin F. Day; Sergeants Miles C. Shoup, Fred O. Heckathorn, Cyrus G. Whitehill, William F. Eshbaugh, Edward R. Murray, Eugene E. Trout, Clifford L. Kahle, William H. Adams, Charles B. Ruch, Russell L. Matchett, William L. McMullen, Amer L. Stormer, Ernest E. Cridler; Corporals Thomas B. English, Charles W. Stormer, Thomas R. Miller, Elwood L. Van Cleve; Sergeant Charles J. Van Dyke; Corporals James R. Fellers, James S. Oxenham; Sergeant Albert A. Ahrens; Corporals George J. Selway, George G. Flury, Henry A. Polleck, LeRoy H. Mayer, Lester L. Duncan, Ralph G. Baughman, Herbert A. Wolfe, Edwin A. Kilheffer, John G. Miller; Private Joseph N. Cohick; Corporals Robert B. Lambert, Paul L. Weaver, Orion Silor, Jesse Markey, LeRoy E. Mountz, Jean Furgeson, William H. Marsh, Jr., Thomas H. Moore; Sergeant Clifford C. Whitehill; Corporals Charles A. Sawatsky, Jack Gordon, William F. Gilliland, John B. G. Roberts; Mess Sergeant Arthur D. Holliday; Cooks Lawrence M. Kissinger, Lawrence J. Lauer, Florence V. Ragon, Francis E. Shine; Mechanic George W. Linsey; Corporals Joseph D. Murtin, Ira M. Porter; Mechanic Stiney Shimkus; Buglers Walter L. Halsey, Carl J. Johnson; First-class Privates Harry P. Arnsberger, Earl W. Allison, Howard W. Bartlett, William M. Bittenbender, Russell J. Bostdorf, William J. Burgoon, Homer D. Calvert, Frank Concilla, Errol H. Collins, Philip R. Davis, Samuel I. Davis, Lewis E. Duncan; Corporal Francis R. Flynn; First-class Privates Charles J. Greenawalt, James L. Gilliland, Frank L. Grove, Arthur J. Hall; Corporal Howard C. Hitz; First-class Privates William L. Johnson, John L. Keister, Hugh P. King, Herman A. Kurschinski, Edward J. Lewis, Jerome J. Lewis, George A. Lytle, Jr., Alexander C. MacIntyre, George A. Markell, Alonzo R. Martin, Paul R. Miller, Frank C. Moon, Harold E. Moon, James L. Nestlerode; Corporal Perry A. Raybuck; First-class Privates Lewis M. Reynolds, LeRoy E. Rife, William H. Rilley; Corporal Grant W. Rodgers; First-class Privates Lawrence F. Schreck, Ray H. Sheaffer, Milford L. Sheats, John R. Simpson, Roy P. Singer, Otto R. Spielman, William F. Tock, Frank J. Tock, Ernest E. Van Lear, John C. Waddell; Privates Leroy B. Albright, Philip R. Anderson,

Jacob S. Arnold, John C. Arnold; Corporals Arthur C. Bannon, William H. Bennett; Privates Charles B. Bowers, Donald L. Beale, Samuel E. Bowers, Robert H. Branyan, Claude M. Bretz; Corporal Elva L. Bruce; Privates Sherman R. Butler, Herbert Bryson, Joseph C. Bryson, Silas F. Calvert, Truman A. Cassel, William D. Clash, Lewis Coast, Albert R. Compton, Charles B. Cook; Cook Benjamin H. Coyle; Privates James M. Crozier, Paul R. Chrissman, Dewey D. Daniels, Edgar M. Deihl, Thomas Desento, George D. DeWolf, Ephrine J. Diebold, Carl H. Doner, Robert J. Donze, William T. Downs, George M. Duttenhofer, Bruce E. Eakins, Frank Eisenhour, Antony Eismont, Elick Emick, Frank L. English, Walter M. Etzweiler, Charles M. Evans, Charles W. Fackler, Henry F. Emsweiler, Guyon L. Fair, William E. Felker, Miller S. Fencil, Harry K. Fishman, Harold V. Fleischman, Maurice E. Flurie, Benjamin F. Foose, Edward J. Frederick, Isaac Freedman, Otha M. Ganoe, Daniel F. Garvey, Horace H. Gladfelter, Frederick O. Goodyear, Benjamin L. Grabill, Ben F. Greenawalt, Roy L. Greenawalt, Leo Gruber, Howard M. Hadley, William T. Haak, Earl Hahn, John W. Hall, John C. Harner, George A. Harper, James Edward Henderson, Johan Hegedus, Arthur G. Henry, Clarence W. Herman, Clarence L. Hinkle, Charles R. Hocker, Clarence E. Hoover, John B. Hufnagle, Aden H. Ingham, Lee H. Irvine, Thomas B. Irvine, Lee H. Irwin, Clarence A. Jenkins, Charles N. Jones, Paul Judy, George W. Kennedy, Lewis Kirkpatrick, Paul J. Kitzmiller, Herman C. Knight, Fred Koenig, Jr., William M. Lacey, David W. Lambert, LeRoy R. Landis, William N. Lawsox, Earl G. Leinbach, William R. Lawrence, Ira F. Lentz, Millard W. Lesher, Sidney Levens, William H. Levens, Gilbert W. Lewis, Alfred J. Lilley, Edward E. Logue, George D. Lobelenz, Charles F. Loper, Jr., Thomas C. Lyons, William A. McCarthy, Thomas J. McCutcheon, Glenn D. McElhatten, Edgar J. McGill, Mack A. McGinnis, William S. McKay, Luther G. McLaughlin, Albert W. Mehaffie, John F. Martin, Albert K. Meese, Burhill Myers, Oscar L. Nitsel, Carl G. Neubauer, Ralph O. Oakes, Floyd Orr, Tony Petulla, Sam Petulla, Harley F. Peterson, Edward Frederick, Andrew P. Repman, Frederick A. Remus, Charles E. Survey, Vincenco Roneri, Fred Schmerfeld, Clifford A. Schmidt, Charles E. Schrum (mechanic), Paul Shaffner, Alvie C. Siar, Claude A. Siar, Evert C. Sigworth, Elmer L. Sisson, Francis G. Slagle, Joseph M. Slater, Leroy O. Smith, George L. Smith, Peter Soroko, Leslie

L. Spear, Raymond E. Steigerwalt, Lee M. Stover, John E. Stoughten, Earl E. Stroupe, John H. Terwilliger, Oscar V. Thomas, Daniel Toland, Edward J. Weaver, Derwood H. Wenner, William E. Witmer, Arthur L. Williams, George V. Williams, Samuel S. Winger, John H. Yost, Edwin E. Yount, Harry Smith, E. D. Gibson, C. W. Cartwright; Corporal Edgar A. Reid.

*Company F*, from Franklin, had the following officers and men: Capt. David L. Sutherland; First Lieut. Harry E. Robb; First Lieut. Joseph P. Connell; First Lieut. James R. Thompson; Second Lieut. William H. Corbin; Second Lieut. Philip C. Burdick; First Sergeant Quinton J. McClelland; Mess Sergeant Frank L. Dillon; Supply Sergeant Philip E. P. Brine, Sergeants Nicholas E. Musgrave, William E. Emery, Harry M. Myers, Harry P. Shields, James C. Richey, Frederick S. Burford, William P. LaMere, Frank R. Fleming, Xopher E. Moyer, Sewell D. Cutshall, Lewis H. Knode, Walter W. Conrad; Corporal Robert R. Huddleson; Sergeant John P. Connell; Corporals Harold P. Anderson, Edward C. Gribben, Harry A. DeWoody, Harry M. Eakin, James B. Frankenberger, Frank W. Mehrten, Frank E. Hedley, Cassius F. Whitehill, Edwin H. Griffith, Robert L. Jones, Charles E. Dunkle, Sherman A. Dunlap, Rosse E. Perrine, Earl F. Rishell, Harry D. Figard, William B. Holder, James H. White, Floyd Krepps, Elmer R. Martz, Fred A. Steele, Chester E. Baker, Thomas D. McEwen, Edward B. Shoff, Frank K. Myers; Cooks George W. Young, Emil F. Mack, Clarence E. Rosenberg, Aura C. Adams; Supply Sergeant William E. Clark; Mechanics Gilbert T. Bishop, Charles L. Gray, Horace C. Cordin; Buglers Eric A. Vogan, Roy W. Scott; Privates Newton M. Adams, Oliver S. Africa; Mechanic George M. Agnew; Privates James S. Alexander, William E. Ambrose, Carl W. Anderson, Charles W. Anderson, John Anderson, Robert C. Appleby, Joseph E. Austra, Frank D. Bagshaw, Jesse P. Banks, Clarence E. Bartlett, John C. Baumgardner, Jacob R. Baumgardner, Finlet Beatty, William G. Beers, Oscar P. Beck, Samuel H. Beck, James S. Benjamin, Edward L. Blair, Fred Blyler, Joseph A. Boner, James S. Bottomfield, Leroy Bowers, Jesse G. Bowman, Bernard P. Bradley, Luther A. Bradley; Corporal Richard H. Bradley; Privates Louis J. Brennan, Daniel J. Brindle, Elmer J. Brindle, James H. Brown, Preston G. Brown, Richard C. Brown, Raymond A. Brown, William E. Brown, John W. Buffet, Roland Buffet, Adam Burke, Russell O. But-

ler, John J. Callen, James E. Clune; Corporal Floyd Coffman; Privates Nathan L. Cohen, Clyde W. Coldren, Harry D. Corbin, Wilbur F. Corbin, William A. Cotterman, Carlton M. Cowher, Charles H. Cozad, Homer W. Cramer, Leroy Cresswell, Frank Cristini, Oscar H. Crownover, Roy S. Crownover; Corporal Harry W. Davis; Privates Jay V. Dean, Frederick M. Dean, Charles B. Decker, James D. DeMart, Norman L. Dilley, Harold M. Dorworth, Jonathan F. Doyle, David B. Drolsbaugh, Fred M. Drolsbaugh, John A. Dunkle, Thaddeus Dubiel, Willias Earsman, Robert H. Edwards, William J. Engles, William E. English, Ralph W. Evans; Corporal Plum L. Ewing; Privates John W. Farren, Elmer C. Feaster, Raymond W. Fish, Fred Flake, John M. Fry, George S. Gamble, Joseph L. Gates, George E. Gibboney, Arthur E. Gibbs, George F. Godard, Harry J. Goss, Robert Bruce Graham, Jesse G. Greer, David Greggs, James H. Hagans, William E. Hall, William Hamel, Clarence W. Hamman; Corporal Edward B. Hamor; Privates Gordon Hardy, Albert F. Harton, Frank C. Harvey, Oliver B. Hawkins; Corporal Carl J. Hays; Privates Chalmers J. Hawn, Homer O. Heck, Charles R. Heck, Lee J. Heckathorn, Edwin C. Hecker, John N. Heeter, Harold S. Helsel, Oral S. Henderson, Francis P. Henzel, Thomas H. Herriman, David H. Herring, William H. Hess, Charles R. Hollabaugh, Charles W. Holt, Robert B. Honstine, Oscar Houser, George W. Hovis, Fred H. Johnson; Corporals Harry W. Johnson, Donald S. Johnston; Privates Owen F. Jones, Frederick Krepps; Cook August J. Kress; Privates Frank W. Kurtz, James M. Kurtz, James R. Leeper, William J. Leonard, George H. Lightner, William S. Lister, Harry L. Lukehart, Harry M. Maier, George A. Maloney, Joseph D. Mario, James E. Mason, John J. Matzko, Jr., John B. McCann, Thomas P. McCann, Lynn H. McKee, Robert McConnell, Orthello B. Miller, Paul A. Miller, Albert Minnich, Melvin M. Mong; Corporal Howard E. Moore; Privates Leo B. Mulholland, Elmer R. Murdock, Oliver C. Murphy, Bird Nail, Leo W. Palmer, Emil F. Pashley, Judson Peterson, Earl C. Pollock, George A. Port, Andrew J. Porter, George V. Porter, James H. Porter, William R. Porter, Robert Ricalton, John D. Ross, John L. Rupert; Bugler Marward L. Saukeld; Privates Harold P. Saunier, Harold A. Seaton, Clarence M. Shaffer, Ralph L. Shuffstall, Leopoldo Sichi, William S. Simonson, Abe D. Smith, Clarence E. Smith, Fred F. Smith, Vernie H. Smock, Clarence E. Snyder; Corporal James H. Speer; Privates Wil-

liam P. Spyker, Orville E. Stadler, James E. Stallsmith, Earl H. Steel, Lester E. Sterrett, George H. Stewart, James R. Strouss; Corporal Lawrence J. Sullivan; Privates Frank M. Waldo, James B. Weir, Norman C. Weston, Donald L. White; Corporal Robert L. White; Privates Carl F. Whitesell, Warren E. Williams; Bugler James S. Wilson; Privates Walter S. Wolcott, George S. Wood, Ray Woodworth, Charles J. Zauzig, Edward L. Zuver, C. G. Coffman, Norman A. Hovis, W. J. Palmer.

There are Oil City and Franklin men in other regiments as officers from captain down; Captain Charles E. Loane and Lieut. Willard Lamberton are notable examples. These young men entered the service from the Plattsburg training camp.

#### HONOR ROLL—OIL CITY

Reports from all the enlisting stations opened in Oil City were sent to the mayor's office, and from the Draft Board as well, and all the names contained therein belong on the Roll of Honor, which is listed on a tablet fastened to the front of the city hall. The following names belong there now:

Allen, Harry L.	Bower, Andrew M.	Cartwell, Thomas
Anderson, Graham H.	Bixler, Charles W.	Dwyer, J. E.
Archer, Herman R.	Burnett, Theodore W.	Durbin, William O.
Aherns, Albert A.	Buchholz, Paul A.	Deenan, Lawrence A.
Allison, Earl W.	Bowers, Joseph W.	Devine, Harry L.
Allbaugh, Rollin Earl	Bruster, Walter J.	Duncan, Gerald Elmer
Alexander, Samuel G.	Benton, Jesse V.	Delo, Albert M.
Alexander, Charles J.	Barr, John F.	Duerner, Thomas W.
Allison, Evert D.	Buchholz, Albert A.	Delo, William L.
Albaugh, Harvey W.	Burton, Henry D.	Dean, Newell
Baum, William T.	Bence, Thomas H.	Dolby, Raymond G.
Burton, Celestine R.	Blausier, Samuel W.	Dunkle, Samuel
Brown, Frank N.	Bernella, Michael J.	Dyjack, Thomas
Baumbach, Earl H.	Brenot, Lawrence W.	Damon, Frank E., Jr.
Barnes, Alfred D.	Bray, Harold I.	Dille, Leroy I.
Borland, George E.	Brown, Horace G.	Driscoll, Joseph P.
Bresnan, Joseph R.	Beighley, James G.	Decker, Claud C.
Brakeman, Alfred E.	Buckham, Russell R.	Dunn, Seymour J.
Brightman, R. H.	Brakeman, Warren W.	Donahue, Patrick
Brown, Richard A.	Barrett, James W.	Dahlin, Alvin E.
Browsky, Bernard M.	Beighley, James A.	Delo, Carmen C.
Barrett, William S.	Bradley, George H.	Daman, Walter L.
Bittender, William H.	Black, James L.	Daman, Charles J.
Bartlett, Howard W.	Bromley, Leslie	Davis, William E.
Bannon, Arthur C.	Beale, Donald L.	Debold, George J.
Boale, Donald L.	Billfaldt, Russell V.	Day, Edwin F.
Berlin, Clem H.	Burke, John J.	Davis, Philip R.
Bruce, Elva L.	Brenot, Oscar E.	Deshner, Clifford C.
Butler, Sherman R.	Berlin, Marien	Desento, Thomas
Bolles, Mervin E.	Bramhall, George	De Wolf, George
Bodamer, Joseph C.	Baltrotsky, Jacob	Diebold, Ephrine J.
Bates, Waldo F.	Beatty, Miss Lorraine T.	Donze, Robert J.
Brannon, Robert M.	Brundred, B. F.	Downs, William T.
Burns, William C.	Brundred, Latham L.	Detar, Reed L.
Burns, James W.	Brundred, Miss Lois	Dale, Warren R.
		Dorworth, James L.
		Earley, Ward B.
		Eisenman, Arthur J.
		Eisenman, Norbert W.
		Emraker, August F.
		Elliston, C. R.
		Eustace, Patrick M.
		Eakins, Bruce E.
		Eismont, Anthony
		Emick, Elick
		English, Frank L.
		Evans, Charles M.
		Eiseman, Frederick A.
		Eaton, Roy C.
		Ellert, George
		Earley, Willard M.
		Edwards, Charles F.
		Ellison, Robert K.
		Eustace, Michael P.
		English, John W.
		Ellis, James
		Eaton, Harold E.
		English, Thomas B.
		Evans, James L.
		Eshbaugh, William F.
		Edmunds, Merle
		Elvet, John
		Eustace, Thomas F.
		Eberly, Claude R.
		Edward, Charles
		Frank, David S.
		Ferguson, John N.
		Fahey, Michael G.
		Fleckenstein, Wm. G.
		Ford, Andrew
		Farrell, Byron
		Farrell, Russell

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

- Flinspauch, Edward M.  
 Fay, Joseph Ross  
 Fleckenstein, Henry J.  
 Freeman, Louis B.  
 Fischer, Eugene H.  
 Fleischmann, Harold V.  
 Frederick, Edward J.  
 Fellers, James R.  
 Flynn, Francis R.  
 Flynn, Walter J.  
 Forehart, Charles  
 Fox, Theodore W.  
 Fry, Charles J.  
 Feeney, James P.  
 Frye, Fredrick W.  
 Fleischmann, Charles S.  
 Flynn, Thomas A.  
 Farhat, Louis K.  
 Frank, Samuel  
 Ferguson, Edward A.  
 Foster, Donald R.  
 Fergus, Paul H.  
 Fritz, Archibald E.  
 Fox, John R.  
 Flynn, Charles E.  
 Flinchbaugh, Arthur W.  
 Ferguson, William M.  
 Fergusan, Gene  
 Grant, Robert F.  
 Goucher, John A.  
 Gibson, William J.  
 Gavin, Thomas R.  
 Goldberg, Samuel  
 Goldberg, William  
 Gates, Robert E.  
 Gordon, Victor E.  
 Gumfory, Alexander A.  
 Garvey, Daniel J.  
 Greenwalt, Ben F.  
 Greenwalt, Roy L.  
 Gilliland, James L.  
 Gilliland, William F.  
 Greenwalt, Charles J.  
 Gordon, Jack  
 Guisewite, Raymond D.  
 Gilling, Don E.  
 Guye, Joseph H.  
 Gillespie, Niel  
 George, Link  
 Glenn, Todo K.  
 Gordon, Raymond  
 Geny, Henry W.  
 Gault, Charles W.  
 Groner, Joseph F.  
 Goodemote, Elmer G.  
 Genovese, Tony  
 Gilmore, Miss Estelle  
 Gaddess, Thomas  
 Graham, Orson J.  
 Gillies, Alexander C.  
 George, Isaac I.  
 Gates, William E.  
 Goodemote, Earl L.  
 Goodemote, Ray W.  
 Gordon, Howard M.  
 Guisewite, Lee E.  
 Goldstein, Harry W.  
 Goldstein, George S.  
 Ginkel, Frank P.  
 Graybill, Sidmore S.  
 Grettenerger, J. W.  
 Gardiner, Floyd T.  
 Gates, R. M.
- Goldstein, Charles R.  
 Grove, James D.  
 Hill, Floyd D.  
 Haggerty, William H.  
 Hill, Melvin E.  
 Hammond, R. C.  
 Henderson, James L.  
 Henderson, John D.  
 Hitterman, Alfred X.  
 Highhouse, Walter F.  
 Hullings, Cortland M.  
 Hill, Marshall M.  
 Holtz, Max  
 Heyison, Max  
 Hoover, Harold L.  
 Haggerty, Harry S.  
 Hovis, Harold D.  
 Huff, Walter P.  
 Hennessey, John J.  
 Hewston, Charles H.  
 Huff, Cyrus C.  
 Holtzman, Joseph R.  
 Hare, William J.  
 Hall, Arvin P.  
 Haslett, Edward A.  
 Hetrick, Charles S.  
 Hynes, Henry W.  
 Hill, Arthur R.  
 Hall, John W.  
 Harper, George A.  
 Hufnagel, John B.  
 Henderson, James M.  
 Henderson, James E.  
 Hegedus, Yohan  
 Holliday, Arthur P.  
 Halsey, Walter L.  
 Hadley, Howard M.  
 Heckathorn, Fred O.  
 Hall, Willis W.  
 Hilliard, Adlai W.  
 Hall, Clarence A.  
 Hilliard, Sylvan F.  
 Hoffman, Arthur L.  
 Harrier, Walter A.  
 Hoffman, Wade H.  
 Hahn, William G.  
 Hennessey, Edward  
 Irwin, Lawrence  
 Ingham, Aden H.  
 Irvine, Lee H.  
 Irvine, Thomas B.  
 Irwin, Reuben G.  
 Irwin, Arthur W.  
 Irwin, Lee H.  
 Irrgang, Peter  
 Johnson, Arthur W.  
 Jacoby, Herbert L.  
 Johnson, Leroy E.  
 Johnson, Charles W.  
 Judy, Walter Victor  
 Johnson, Robert C.  
 Johnson, Leonard  
 Jones, Charles W.  
 Johnstone, John A.  
 Josty, John L.  
 Johannesson, Henry  
 Jones, Perry S.  
 Johnstone, Robert F.  
 Jhons, Nick  
 Johnston, Lester R.  
 Johnson, James A.  
 Johnson, John D.  
 Johnson, Edward H.
- Jenkins, Clarence A.  
 Johnston, George R.  
 Johnston, John R.  
 Jordan, Milan E.  
 Johnson, Carl J.  
 James, Earl F.  
 Kelly, John Rossman  
 Kauffman, W. P.  
 Kearney, Henry J.  
 Kretseles, Speros P.  
 Kahle, John R.  
 Kingsland, Leroy H.  
 Knight, Herman C.  
 King, Hugh P.  
 Kurschenski, H. A.  
 Kahle, Clifford L.  
 Kramer, Clarence A.  
 King, John L.  
 Kirkwood, Melvin C.  
 Kirkwood, Wesley M.  
 Klugh, Harvey B.  
 Karns, Raymond W.  
 Kiehl, George W.  
 Knass, Harry R.  
 Kerney, Charles  
 Kahle, Stanley W.  
 Kelley, Ralph L.  
 Krayer, Carl A.  
 Korn, Phil F.  
 Kessler, Harry  
 Kightlinger, George  
 Kielas, John  
 Kirkwood, Morris J.  
 Krug, Oran G.  
 Kohlman, G. Victor  
 Kellar, Eugene T.  
 Kacz, Walter T.  
 Kistler, Lester I.  
 Korn, Anthony J.  
 Kurtz, J. Fred  
 Kinney, Francis E.  
 Kay, Louis F. H.  
 Kay, Waldemar  
 Keating, Michael J. J.  
 Kurschinske, Herman  
 Korn, Felix  
 Kniver, George E.  
 Kane, Capt. Robert T.  
 Kistler, Louis H.  
 Klos, Ignacy  
 Kilburn, Robert B.  
 Kulling, Albert H.  
 Kistler, Lawrence  
 Kulling, William A.  
 Keating, Edmund Jas.  
 Kahle, Grover C.  
 Kahle, Lucion M.  
 Kuhns, Alexander E.  
 Kennedy, Donald  
 Kenney, Patrick  
 Lowrie, Howard R.  
 Lyford, Raymond A.  
 Lockwood, Otto H.  
 Lockwood, Clarence J.  
 Lynn, Charles J.  
 Lamberton, Robert R.  
 Lamberton, Willard B.  
 Lay, Joseph W.  
 Loane, Charles E.  
 Logan, Dale  
 Lascaris, Demetrius N.  
 Lucas, Marvin J.  
 Lange, Otto Carl
- Lehnrott, Fred  
 Lee, Harold W.  
 Low, Daniel W.  
 Lawler, James W.  
 Lenihan, James H.  
 Linehan, Thomas P.  
 Lynch, Jerry M.  
 Lindquist, Earl I.  
 Lantz, Frederick  
 Levinson, Max  
 Lauer, L. J.  
 Lawson, William W.  
 Lawrence, William R.  
 Lewis, Gilbert W.  
 Loebelenz, George D.  
 Lyons, Thomas C.  
 Lindsey, George W.  
 Lytle, George A. Jr.  
 Lane, Frank B.  
 Lane, Granville B.  
 Lenser, Paul G.  
 Louden, John P.  
 Louden, Charles G.  
 Leslie, Nelson R.  
 Lynch, Edward J.  
 Lynam, Clarence S.  
 Linn, Otis G.  
 Lambrose, George K.  
 Liddy, Albert B.  
 Lafferty, George L.  
 Locke, William H.  
 Lenser, Otto  
 Lang, Miss Dora  
 (Nurse)  
 Lawson, James I.  
 Loveridge, Leonard E.  
 Long, Harry  
 Lenser, Henry F.  
 McIntyre, Edward S.  
 McCracken, William J.  
 McGill, Donald H.  
 McCuen, Jerome H.  
 McNamara, Carl  
 McCandless, Elmer J.  
 McCandless, Charles L.  
 McCuen, Donald  
 McCarthy, Lemar J.  
 McLouth, Ralph D.  
 McMullen, William L.  
 McIntyre, Alexander C.  
 McCutcheon, Thomas J.  
 McElhatton, Glenn D.  
 McGill, Edgar J.  
 McGinnis, Mack A.  
 McKay, William S.  
 McClellan, Benjamin F.  
 McGraw, Michael Joseph  
 McDonald, William G.  
 McCollum, Robert T.  
 McCombs, John E.  
 McCamman, L. P.  
 McLaughlin, John J.  
 McGuigan, Walter H.  
 McCloskey, Frank C.  
 McAbee, Richard  
 McVeagh, H. L.  
 McKenzie, Angus  
 McLaughlin, Joseph B.  
 McCollum, Robert M.  
 Morrissey, Matthew D.  
 Morton, Frederick S.  
 Messer, Edward H.  
 Magilowitz, M.

- Martin, Kerron J.  
 Morrison, Carl H.  
 Miller, Lloyd S.  
 Myers, Raymond Joseph  
 Moynihan, Thomas  
 Matthews, Floyd A.  
 Mackenzie, A. E.  
 Meadows, Walter W.  
 Miller, Charles E.  
 Miller, Joseph H.  
 Mohnkern, Chas. O. Jr.  
 Mohnkern, Robert E.  
 Morgan, Edward R.  
 Main, William B.  
 Main, Charles L.  
 Morrison, Alfred L.  
 Maul, V. C.  
 Martin, Roger J.  
 Mott, Milo O.  
 Morkin, Michael E.  
 Malter, Leon C.  
 Mulvihill, Thomas  
 Marsh, William H., Jr.  
 Moore, Thomas H.  
 Miller, Thomas R.  
 Markell, George A.  
 Moon, Harold E.  
 Moon, Frank C.  
 Martin, John F.  
 Meese, Albert K.  
 Myers, Burhl I.  
 Melbourn, Charles A.  
 Moon, Henry A.  
 Moynihan, Daniel P.  
 Moore, Claude R.  
 Mohnkern, G. Edward  
 Mitchell, Harland C.  
 Mitchell, James M.  
 Moon, Frank N.  
 Madden, Leo L.  
 Maitland, James A.  
 Moore, Charles A.  
 Mooney, Thomas J.  
 Miller, James W.  
 Morrison, Walter E.  
 Miller, James Albert  
 Middleton, Raymond D.  
 Miller, Joseph Sayers  
 Mansfield, Marshall H.  
 Meals, Roy C.  
 Mohr, Frank W.  
 Mull, John Russell  
 Mook, Donald  
 Morton, Leonard L.  
 Myers, Albert  
 Miller, Frank H.  
 Mong, Louis A.  
 Misikian, Jack  
 Monks, William  
 Major, Harold D.  
 Miller, Elson E.  
 Nelson, Harry S.  
 Naiten, Sam  
 Niver, George E.  
 Nelson, Sherril P.  
 Nagle, Edwin E.  
 Nitsel, Oscar E.  
 Neibauer, Carl J.  
 Newark, Wilbur L.  
 Nellis, Roy L.  
 Nelson, Vernon W.  
 Nelson, Ralph B.  
 Nestlerode, James E.  
 Neely, David A.  
 Nunamaker, Emery J.  
 Noxon, George N.  
 Netzler, Edward F.  
 Nunn, C. Harry  
 Nolan, William P.  
 Osenider, Philip D.  
 O'Neil, Charles B.  
 Osenider, Joseph F.  
 O'Donnell, Harold E.  
 Oakes, Ralph O.  
 Orr, Floyd  
 Oxenham, James J.  
 Olmes, Donald M.  
 Osman, Otis E.  
 Owens, Miss Fannie C.  
 O'Connor, James H.  
 Purse, Frank M.  
 Perry, Charles H.  
 Putman, William D.  
 Petulla, Tony  
 Peterson, Harley F.  
 Patchen, Malcolm W.  
 Poulsen, John J.  
 Poulsen, George H., Jr.  
 Poulsen, Lorenzo C.  
 Plante, Thomas W.  
 Pritchards, Francis L.  
 Plaeger, John B.  
 Pinkerton, James E.  
 Plante, Glenn F.  
 Peebles, Albert M.  
 Porter, Ira H.  
 Perry, Clyde W.  
 Porter, George A.  
 Pitroff, Anthony J.  
 Pardee, Theodore H.  
 Pritchard, Francis  
 Palmer, Ralph  
 Paca, William W.  
 Powers, George W.  
 Patton, Miss Ruth  
 Payne, Howard  
 Plack, George C.  
 Philp, Walter J.  
 Parkhurst, Clarence J.  
 Porter, Carlyle L.  
 Patterson, Henry C.  
 Pfendack, Charles W.  
 Persing, Herbert H.  
 Richorts, Charles W.  
 Rickards, George C.  
 Riley, Bernard  
 Rowland, Chauncey W.  
 Rasis, Peter  
 Rogers, Samuel W.  
 Ryan, James V.  
 Rankin, Arthur C.  
 Reynolds, Roland R.  
 Repman, Andrew P.  
 Roesch, George J.  
 Remus, Frederick A.  
 Raybuck, Perry A.  
 Reynolds, Lewis M.  
 Riley, William H.  
 Ravey, Joseph H., Jr.  
 Ravey, Leo F.  
 Reid, Clayton C.  
 Rea, Sherman F.  
 Rogers, Grant W.  
 Roberts, John B.  
 Repman, Norbert C.  
 Rowe, Charles W.  
 Reynolds, Charles S.  
 Rumbard, Leonard  
 Reid, Edgar A.  
 Russell, Robert Lester  
 Ravey,  
 Reardon, Thomas H.  
 Rembold, Herbert W.  
 Robinson, Henry K.  
 Raynor, Mary J.  
 Remus, William H.  
 Remus, Albert C.  
 Roess, George P.  
 Rehr, Lewis  
 Roesch, Clarence E.  
 Roberts, Leroy  
 Rankin, W. S.  
 Ramage, Alfred H.  
 Riley, Arthur C.  
 Rogers, Eugene G.  
 Richards, Roy S.  
 Redmond, John J.  
 Staub, Charles H.  
 Sanzari, Pasquale J.  
 Steffee, Ray  
 Shaughnessy, Jas. Earl  
 Shively, Charles F.  
 Stirits, Charles W.  
 Schwager, Gustave L.  
 Sitler, John E.  
 Smoyer, Frank E.  
 Stroup, Lewis E.  
 Stewart, Thomas Joseph  
 Sterling, Clyde E.  
 Sporer, Philip M.  
 Stover, Earl C.  
 Shanefelter, John J.  
 Schurr, George W.  
 Schell, William  
 Stover, Lester E.  
 Sawatzki, Carl  
 Smith, Frank M.  
 Smith, Melvin  
 Smith, Willard G.  
 Smith, Nelson M.  
 Swetsky, Jacob  
 Smith, Walter L.  
 Selinsky, Michael  
 Sandrock, Frank L.  
 Sincerney, Callen C.  
 Schwab, Harry H.  
 Shoup, R. L.  
 Stover, H. M.  
 Selden, Frank H.  
 Steffee, Albert G.  
 Steffee, Charles D.  
 Sigworth, Benjamin H.  
 Sadler, Harold B.  
 Sager, Robert C.  
 Smith, Clifford R.  
 Sanner, Roy G.  
 Suhr, Henry W.  
 Skinner, Gerald T.  
 Sadler, Wendell P.  
 Shields, Clyde E.  
 Shaw, James C.  
 Surra, John W.  
 Shields, Charles J.  
 Schoonover, James W.  
 Salor, George L.  
 Sarver, Charles A.  
 Sawatsky, Charles A.  
 Sarvey, Charles E.  
 Schmiot, Clifford A.  
 Schaffer, Paul  
 Siar, Alvie C.  
 Siar, Claude A.  
 Sigworth, Evert C.  
 Sisson, Elmer L.  
 Slagle, Francis G.  
 Slater, Joseph M.  
 Smith, Leroy O.  
 Smith, George L.  
 Speer, Leslie L.  
 Stover, Lee M.  
 Stoughton, John E.  
 Sheats, Milford L.  
 Schrum, Charles E.  
 Stormer, Charles W.  
 Stormer, Amer L.  
 Shoup, Miles C.  
 Sullivan, Edward P.  
 Shaffer, George L.  
 Smith, Labanna J.  
 Steward, Earl L.  
 Smith, Fred L.  
 Smith, Harold L.  
 Stubler, George A.  
 Solorn, Thomas  
 Stover, Nelson E.  
 Say, Victor S.  
 Smith, Herbert J.  
 Steffee, Lake Daniels  
 Sabouski, Leo A.  
 Srague, Clifford R.  
 Slesnick, Ira S.  
 Schell, Harry  
 Sharrar, Oliver  
 Sweetwood, Homer A.  
 Smith, Lynford R.  
 Spangler, Alfred L.  
 Shreffler, Jesse J.  
 Shine, Francis E.  
 Small, Chester H.  
 Smithman, Howard H.  
 Scharmach, John J.  
 Slater, Lloyd  
 Schaeffner, H. G. Jr.  
 Stark, Edward M.  
 Sampsell, Samuel L.  
 Stiller, Frank T.  
 Toy, Leroy  
 Truby, Charles F.  
 Thurau, William  
 Trosh, Franklin Brinton  
 Thompson, Harry P.  
 Taylor, Perry  
 Tock, Lloyd Frank  
 Teodobio, Creste C.  
 Thompson, Lawrence P.  
 Trax, David L., Jr.  
 Trax, Charles A.  
 Theobald, John L.  
 Tessmer, William J.  
 Tobin, John T.  
 Terwilliger, John H.  
 Thomas, Oscar V.  
 Tock, Frank J.  
 Tock, William F.  
 Trout, Eugene E.  
 Thorn, Frederick W.  
 Trembath, William  
 Thurston, Norman J.  
 Ungren, Einar E.  
 Van Dyke, Charles J.  
 Van Horn, Vance  
 Vogan, Edward S., Jr.

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

- Vamvalis, Nicholas  
 Van Cleve, Elwood L.  
 Vaughan, John L.  
 Voorhies, Howard W.  
 Van Giesen, W. Myrl  
 Van Dermark, M. W.  
 Van Wie, Ralph A.  
 Wygant, Plumer G.  
 Weiford, Harry E.  
 Watson, Ralph C.  
 Wrhen, Herbert V.  
 Westlake, Floyd E.  
 Weigle, Raymond J.  
 Walter, Leon H.  
 Weaver, Daniel H.  
 Weaver, Columbus A.  
 Whitling, Roy R.  
 Whitehouse, Albert G.  
 Wolfe, John Miller  
 Wilmoth, Raymond A.  
 Watson, Capt. Thomas P.  
 Westinghouse, Geo. P.  
 Whiteman, Thomas  
 Walsh, J. J.  
 Ward, George M.  
 Ward, Frank J.  
 Wenner, Fred  
 Wilbert, Leo M.  
 Winger, John Wesley  
 Weaver, Joseph A.  
 Watson, Ralph G.  
 West, Warner A.  
 Weimer, Fred W.  
 Weimer, Charles W.  
 Waluda, Anthony  
 Waid, Ralph D.  
 Whitten, John W.  
 Westlake, Edgar G.  
 Winger, Donald J.  
 Weaver, Earl J.  
 Waslohn, Walter J.  
 Weaver, Edward J.  
 Wenner, Derwood H.  
 Witmer, Wm. Ellsworth  
 Williams, George V.  
 Winger, Samuel S.  
 Whitehill, Clifford C.  
 Waddell, John C.  
 Wadsworth, William R.  
 Whitehill, Silas G.  
 Winger, George H.  
 Yeager, Walter  
 Yost, John H.  
 Yount, Edwin E.  
 Yarnell, John A.  
 Yeager, Edgar W.  
 Yeager, Jerry L.  
 York, John R.  
 Zimmermann, Fred'k G.  
 Zimmerman, Henry J.  
 Ziegler, Frank D.  
 Ziegler, F. DeVern  
 Ashley, George C.  
 Applequist, Christian W.  
 Anderson, Sylvan  
 Bartels, Charles  
 Breene, John L.  
 Breene, Lawrence  
 Burton, Louis  
 Burton, James
- Barr, Frank  
 Brewster, Walter J.  
 Baker, Edwin S.  
 Bracken, Lloyd M.  
 Barkman, Frank D.  
 Boyer, Theodore L.  
 Bruner, Harold  
 Brockway, Clarence S.  
 Banbury, Ralph F.  
 Bray, Ralph  
 Bailey, Roland  
 Bollinger, Emanuel A.  
 Barthelmes, Kenneth  
 Bauer, George B.  
 Blum, Julius  
 Beatty, Harry  
 Barnes, Ralph  
 Bolden, Benjamin L.  
 Brown, Paul W.  
 Burns, Raymond P.  
 Boyer, Theodore J.  
 Baumbach, George W.  
 Beatty, Carl Q.  
 Banbury, Charles A.  
 Budesky, Felix G.  
 Bower, Joseph T.  
 Bolles, Chester M.  
 Bielecki, Leo J.  
 Berry, Charles P.  
 Connery, William J., Jr.  
 Crawford, George  
 Callahan, Henry  
 Clarkson, George W.  
 Corn, Felix  
 Campbell, James  
 Coulter, Clarence D.  
 Campbell, Herbert W.  
 Casey, Edward V.  
 Carson, Harry L.  
 Clark, William  
 Clow, Lerdy W.  
 Cameron, A. Dougall  
 Carroll, Bernard A.  
 Cumming, Duncan R.  
 Davis, Arthur J.  
 Derrick, Clarence  
 Donaghy, John A.  
 Dickey, E. L.  
 Dickey, Howard C.  
 Dickie, Harold  
 DeLong, Howard A.  
 Decker, Claude C.  
 Donahue, Patrick  
 Danlin, Alvin E.  
 Detar, Fred L.  
 Dilley, Jacob N.  
 Dunlap, Elmer W.  
 Deyoe, Robert E.  
 Dunmire, Jesse J.  
 Donze, Albert E.  
 Francisco, Ernest C.  
 Francisco, George M.  
 Fisher, James A.  
 Ford, Albert J.  
 Fry, Frank L., Jr.  
 Francisco, William H.  
 Fry, Harold I.  
 Flynn, John T.  
 Felt, Rush W.  
 Frampton, Wayne F.  
 Firster, David L.
- Finnegan, William A.  
 Gillies, Hugh  
 Greene, Ralph E.  
 Hays, William Vincent  
 Hughes, Clyde E.  
 Hitterman, Harry  
 Hyland, Charles  
 Hare, Henry P.  
 Hulings, Garnet S.  
 Hulings, Norman McD.  
 Hanton, Thomas R.  
 Holmes, Floyd M.  
 Hall, Arvin C.  
 Heyison, William  
 Harding, William E.  
 Hoffman, Cohler  
 Hills, Blaine  
 Hosack, Howard  
 Hurly, Jack  
 Hewston, Robert  
 Hughes, Donald M.  
 Hughes, Robert A.  
 Heckathorn, Roy N.  
 Henry, Dr. E. Glenn  
 Isles, Daniel J.  
 Johnson, William L.  
 Johnson, Charles W.  
 Joslin, Ira S.  
 Jacobs, Nathan  
 Jones, Charles N.  
 Jones, Clarence  
 Kunkle, Milton D.  
 Kelly, Clarence W.  
 Keefer, George B.  
 Lowers, Ben P.  
 Lowers, Philip T.  
 Lynam, Vincent C.  
 Loseth, Ole T.  
 Lee, C. L.  
 Logue, Edward E.  
 Luse, Harris L.  
 Lay, Joseph H.  
 Longwell, James W.  
 Lewis, James A.  
 Miller, William T.  
 Murphy, Joseph  
 Mohr, Homer M.  
 Martin, Leonard M.  
 Murray, Albert C.  
 Moyar, Eugene S.  
 Miller, Roy M.  
 Maloney, Francis  
 Miller, Francis E.  
 Moore, Allen S.  
 Mays, Jesse M.  
 Martin, Clarence P.  
 Martin, Thomas M.  
 Mullin, Ralph J.  
 Maddox, Stanley B.  
 Milner, Warren J.  
 Masten, M. E.  
 McCarthy, Thomas C.  
 McAbee, R. E.  
 McFadden, James E.  
 McKee, Percy A.  
 McElhaney, Glenn P.  
 McQuiston, Andrew J.  
 Norris, Leo P.  
 Neuland, Louis A.  
 Nelson, Joel
- O'Hara, William P.  
 Olszewski, Bert F.  
 O'Neill, John F.  
 Porter, Ira M.  
 Pitroff, Charles H.  
 Pitroff, Raymond L.  
 Philp, Lester  
 Proper, Ralph R.  
 Petulla, Samuel  
 Perry, Harry S.  
 Payne, Marion B.  
 Porter, H. M.  
 Reese, Ernest L.  
 Richards, Chas. Leroy  
 Reid, Frank J.  
 Rogers, John G.  
 Russell, Harold E.  
 Reisinger, Richard E.  
 Redmond, Theodore A.  
 Rehr, Wilmer I., Jr.  
 Rush, Archie Ervin  
 Rhodes, Everett M.  
 Ridgway, Lloyd E.  
 Roess, Gustav F.  
 Simms, Clyde  
 Silberman, Joseph  
 Splane, Alvin W.  
 Sandusky, Edward L.  
 Speer, Paul  
 Sheridan, Phil J.  
 Stormer, Robert R.  
 Snyder, Joseph  
 Shields, George P.  
 Stahlman, Theodore  
 Sousae, Merle F.  
 Schwartzkopf, Roy I.  
 Sampson, Chester F.  
 Schneider, Vincent P.  
 Skalny, George  
 Shultz, Abraham M.  
 Stathis, Andrew  
 Stewart, Howard W.  
 Smith, Joseph H.  
 Swartzlander, John  
 Seth, Paul Henry  
 Steffee, Forest E.  
 Sanner, Edward G.  
 Simpson, Herman J.  
 Seely, Willis P.  
 Seely, Klare  
 Tobin, William B.  
 Thompson, Frank E.  
 Torpey, Patrick J.  
 Van Giesen, Ira C.  
 Weaver, Kenneth R.  
 Wolbert, Earl  
 Wood, L. H.  
 Wallen, L. C. W.  
 Ward, Redvere  
 Wilhelm, Otto C.  
 Williams, Hubert Rex  
 Wright, Herman E.  
 Westlake, Gerald S.  
 Welker, Guy W.  
 Womer, Charles S.  
 Whitten, Oliver E.  
 Welsh, E. B.  
 Wardwell, George R.  
 Waitz, W. Neill  
 Weims, Fred W.

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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## FRANKLIN DISTRICT.

Allen, Ira Glen  
 Andrews, Lewis H.  
 Andrews, Fred C.  
 Aley, Kyle  
 Adams, Evans  
 Arana, Samuel  
 Axtell, Clayton D.  
 Allen, Glenn P.  
 Alcorn, Ernest W.  
 Adams, Clarence J.  
 Austin, Carl G.  
 Austin, Irwin  
 Akley, Le Roy  
 Ayers, Thomas Martin  
 Alexander, Clarence E.  
 Alcorn, Morris C.  
 Alexander, C. B., M. D.  
 Andrews, Joseph, Jr.  
 Anderson, Frank  
 Alcorn, Andrew L.  
 Adams, Leonard Claire  
 Adams, Ralph W.  
 Atwell, L. O.  
 Axtell, Samuel H.  
 Allen, Walter  
 Arico, Samuel  
 Ashton, C. H., M. D.  
 Aigner, Francis M.  
 Aigner, Martin  
 Alexander, James S.  
 Allen, LaG.  
 Armstrong, Angus G.  
 Alexander, James S., Jr.  
 Alexander, Charles  
 Arters, Richard  
 Adams, Newton M.  
 Annabel, Ralph  
 Armitage, G. C.  
 Adams, Ben  
 Amsler, James  
 Amberson, Edwin  
 Adams, Aura C.  
 Agnew, George M.  
 Adams, Reed J.  
 Anderson, Chas. W.  
 Anderson, Harold P.  
 Axtell, Harvey  
 Brown, Wm. Elmer  
 Beattie, Findley  
 Brosang, William  
 Blyler, Fred  
 Boner, Joseph A.  
 Blair, Robert B.  
 Blair, Edward L.  
 Blair, Raymond  
 Brown, Raymond A.  
 Burford, Frederick S.  
 Bishop, Gilbert T.  
 Bonham, Charles D.  
 Bradley, Luther A.  
 Beatty, James D.  
 Beatty, John H.  
 Black, Robert  
 Bell, Henry H.  
 Beach, Lowry Wilson  
 Byers, Rhea Service  
 Baum, Charles E.  
 Butts, Lawrence W.  
 Burgess, William (Col.)  
 Brown, Harry Leonard

Buck, John H.  
 Berringer, Albert  
 Bell, Donald J.  
 Besly, Albert  
 Biery, Glenn Ayers  
 Brown, William Charles  
 Barr, Weldon McC.  
 Bird, Harry  
 Bleakley, Kenneth H.  
 Butler, Willis Everett  
 Bair, Franklin Edwin  
 Brown, Clarence E.  
 Barr, Frank (Capt.)  
 Bickert, George C.  
 Bleakley, Wayne W.  
 Baker, William P.  
 Bell, Richard A., Dr.  
 Bagley, Richard H.  
 Bradley, Norman E.  
 Brecht, John C.  
 Beightol, Clinton W.  
 Butts, Alfred M.  
 Byers, Harvey R.  
 Bradley, Perry Eugene  
 Black, Floyd Dewey  
 Baldwin, O. K.  
 Beatty, Howard H.  
 Barrett, Chas. Leo  
 Britton, Ira M.  
 Black, Lee G.  
 Berringer, Charles E.  
 Bentley, Ben. L.  
 Byers, R. S.  
 Baker, Lewis C.  
 Braden, Lewis G.  
 Brakeman, Jesse C.  
 Babcock, Earl J.  
 Bickert, George  
 Bailey, Robert O.  
 Black, Hughie W.  
 Breckenridge, Donald  
 Burford, Donald  
 Barrett, Martin V., Dr.  
 Bailey, William  
 Burford, Harry  
 Baker, Clarence B.  
 Boughner, William L.  
 Barron, Anthony J.  
 Boyd, William F.  
 Baldwin, Lloyd  
 Bunce, John Howe  
 Bunce, John L.  
 Bunce, Vincent P.  
 Bonham, Karl N.  
 Brown, Roland  
 Bean, William C.  
 Brown, Guy R.  
 Brown, Fred A.  
 Brandon, John E.  
 Brandon, David E.  
 Bruni, Alexander  
 Bensinger, Forbes R.  
 Bensinger, Joseph L.  
 Bensinger, Harry  
 Boyles, Earl Edward  
 Beach, C. Vance  
 Besley, William Allen  
 Blyler, William H.  
 Baum, Chas. Edward  
 Brest, Forest B.  
 Baker, Lewis C.  
 Bennett, George J.  
 Babcock, Clarence S.  
 Beatty, Carl J.  
 Beatty, Robert C.  
 Berlin, Oren C.  
 Brown, James A.  
 Brown, Richard C.  
 Bleakley, Wm. J.  
 Barron, Anthony J.  
 Bagnall, Lester J.  
 Bereford, Fred  
 Barnes, Herman  
 Bral, Margaret (nurse)  
 Beatty, Clair  
 Blair, Earl  
 Baird, J. C.  
 Benjamin, James S.  
 Bell, S. L.  
 Beatty, William  
 Brennan, Lewis J.  
 Bruo, Alleandro  
 Bigley, Alton H., Jr.  
 Baum, A. J.  
 Brown, R. N.  
 Brine, Philip E. P.  
 Brown, Rollin R.  
 Beers, William G.  
 Beatty, Leo  
 Burchfield, Eugene  
 Bradley, Richard H.  
 Burns, Jay Joseph  
 Boner, Albert  
 Bradshaw, Howard E.  
 Bruner, Paul  
 Butts, Sidney  
 Clinefelter, Joseph C.  
 Crawford, Lloyd  
 Colgrove, Albert M.  
 Creighton, J. M.  
 Camp, George E.  
 Clay, Paul E.  
 Cotterman, Floyd  
 Colgrove, Claude  
 Carr, Ralph  
 Cramer, Ralph E.  
 Capwell, Samuel P.  
 Capwell, Howard  
 Campbell, Thomas J.  
 Crawford, Orlo M.  
 Caccaveller, Fedele G.  
 Clune, Dennis  
 Campbell, William  
 Collins, Robert Sidney  
 Carter, Jesse Theodore  
 Carter, Herman Floyd  
 Chapin, Harry J.  
 Carner, William E.  
 Carralls, Giuseppe  
 Criswell, Clarence  
 Cramer, Carl L.  
 Crawford, Clark R.  
 Clemons, Harry L.  
 Caum, B. C.  
 Cowin, William E.  
 Cugliotta, Nichelle  
 Cramer, Lloyd K.  
 Crawford, Robert C.  
 Campbell, Harley R.  
 Carey, Samuel  
 Clinefelter, Frank A.  
 Crawford, Harry L.  
 Cather, C. Clarence  
 Connell, Joseph P.  
 Cummings, Glenn M.  
 Cheotes, Sperdon D.  
 Christman, Carl R.  
 Coon, Edward M.  
 Casher, William W.  
 Cline, Frederick C.  
 Cupps, Carl  
 Creighton, Clarence C.  
 Cochler, Phillip  
 Clark, C. Harris  
 Collier, Charles Chester  
 Crawford, Clan  
 Chrispen, John Earl  
 Callan, J. Lawrence  
 Crockett, Daniel F.  
 Call, Eugene  
 Cathers, George  
 Cawn, Jesse  
 Clinefelter, Jean E.  
 Coast, Peter F.  
 Crawford, Hugh J.  
 Creighton, George W.  
 Cauvel, Herman O.  
 Calvin, Morley M.  
 Cohen, Nathan  
 Coffman, Floyd  
 Couch, G. F.  
 Cramer, Floyd  
 Cramer, Homer W.  
 Clough, Okley  
 Clark, William E.  
 Corbin, Arthur N.  
 Clune, James E.  
 Cozad, Chas. H.  
 Creighton, Joseph H.  
 Collins, J. Layton  
 Connell, John P.  
 Cathers, William  
 Cox, C. E.  
 Clark, Ernest  
 Cotterman, William A.  
 Copper, Chas.  
 Carrara, Jesse  
 Carrier, Frank  
 Colwell, Harry  
 Colwell, Henry  
 Cordova, Eric D.  
 Cook, R. C.  
 Durnell, Edwin Lyle  
 Deck, Earl R.  
 Dewoody, Byron  
 Dever, Chester L.  
 De Arman, William E.  
 Dille, William C.  
 Dailey, Max Paul  
 Dalmasco, Angelo  
 Dingman, Guy B.  
 Davis, Norman A.  
 Dean, Judd W.  
 Duffee, Frederick Eugene  
 Daubenspeck, George D.  
 De Woody, Wilfred L.  
 Dille, Lloyd Andrew  
 Deeter, Harley M.  
 Donaldson, Spurgeon J.  
 Daugherty, Leon G.  
 De Woody, James F.  
 Dickson, John Henry  
 Dille, James Albert  
 Deets, Samuel E.

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

De Woody, Carl E.  
 Davison, Albert Earl  
 De Long, Earl E.  
 Denny, H. W.  
 Deeter, Lawrence  
 Dille, Guy Lewis  
 De Woody, Carl S.  
 De Wolf, George A.  
 Dorworth, Harold M.  
 Dorworth, Francis  
 Davison, L. M.  
 Donhoefer, G. W.  
 Donovan, James J.  
 Doutt, Ralph  
 Dale, Horace M.  
 Deets, Edgar  
 DeWoody, Roy  
 Dwyer, Dr. J. E.  
 Dickey, E. Llewellyn  
 Dunkle, John A.  
 Daubenspeck, De Witt  
 Dale, Ralph T.  
 Dale, Dwight  
 Dale, H. D.  
 Dale, Harold M.  
 DeWoody, Ralph N.  
 DoWoody, Philip  
 Dunkle, Charles E.  
 Dillon, Frank L.  
 Dunlap, Sherman A.  
 Dubeil, Thaddeus  
 DeWoody, Harry A.  
 Dean, Jay V.  
 Dilley, Norman L.  
 Evans, Daniel W.  
 Eakin, Lester Earl  
 Echel, Daniel N.  
 Eicholtz, James P.  
 Eckel, John Henry  
 Eschelman, Thomas A.  
 Estes, Samuel Henry  
 Ernst, George  
 Evans, Samuel C.  
 Ellis, James Oliver  
 Eakin, Samuel H.  
 English, Frank L.  
 Eaton, James L.  
 Eaton, William V.  
 Elliott, Kenneth  
 Eckel, Edward U.  
 Ewing, Ralph H.  
 Eakin, Harry M.  
 Earsman, Willis  
 Engles, William J.  
 Eaton, Robert Earl  
 Eshelman, H. G.  
 Evans, Ralph W.  
 Evanoff, Nick  
 Ewing, Plum L.  
 Fisher, Chas H.  
 Fleming, Ross  
 Fleming, Frank R.  
 Fisher, William M.  
 Firster, Henderson  
 Faust, C. R.  
 Fleck, Walker  
 Frankenberger, E. L.  
 Farren, John W.  
 Fish, Raymond Wayne  
 Frankenberger, Jas. B.  
 Ford, James C.  
 Foster, Fred Hiram

Finkenstein, Theo. L.  
 Flowers, Howard M.  
 Farren, Richard Elmer  
 Farron, Harry P.  
 Fleming, Hazen V.  
 Flood, James A.  
 Fleming, John A.  
 Furey, Reuben W.  
 Furster, Frank H.  
 Firster, Don E.  
 Feldhouse, Edward F.  
 Fleckner, Leland C.  
 Finucane, Michael  
 Fox, Walter C.  
 Feely, Orville J.  
 Foster, Charles H.  
 Farren, Arthur R.  
 Federico, Camillo D.  
 Frantz, William C.  
 Firster, Charles H.  
 Forbes, Francis H.  
 Felt, Howard  
 Felt, Rush  
 Fasenmeyer, Edward  
 Ferguson, J. Deming  
 Frey, Wesley Le Roy  
 Fergus, Paul Hayes  
 Farren, Johnny F.  
 Farren, Plummer  
 Farringer, I. S.  
 Graham, Owen H.  
 Gramley, William, M. D.  
 Gravatt, Fred S.  
 Gilliland, Curtis E.  
 Grace, Leon D.  
 Gourley, Lee  
 Gyder, Charles A.  
 Giannini, Romeo  
 Greggs, David  
 Galletta, Rosario  
 Gilliland, Oren Boyd  
 Gushrie, Guy E.  
 Goldsmith, Murray H.  
 Gordon, James  
 Guignon, Frederick M.  
 Gordon, Harry  
 Guilinger, Edgar C.  
 Gyder, George J.  
 Green, Richard A.  
 Greenlee, Joseph P.  
 Gibb, Joseph D.  
 Glasser, William N.  
 Groves, J. F.  
 Gregg, John A.  
 Gavin, Thomas R.  
 Graner, William C.  
 Gregory, Harold Frank  
 Gordon, James  
 Goughler, Stanley C.  
 Greenlee, Perry D.  
 Gates, William J.  
 Galbraith, Charles R., Jr.  
 Graham, Robert  
 Grant, Dennison  
 Gearing, C. R.  
 Glenn, Donald  
 Gargel, Tony  
 Goodman, Wm. O.  
 Greiger, Marcus  
 Graham, John E.  
 Grant, John A.  
 Germer, Allen  
 Goodman, William O.

Graham, John  
 Gehres, J. L.  
 Gerbereux, Eugene  
 Greer, Jesse G.  
 Gibbs, Otha  
 Grace, Dick  
 Gibbs, Arthur E.  
 Goss, Harry J.  
 Graham, Glen  
 Griffith, Edwin H.  
 Gallagher, Hugh P.  
 Greene, Mary B.  
 Graham, Verne  
 Grant, William  
 Graham, Robt. Bruce  
 Gribben, Edward C.  
 Graham, Curt  
 Guignon, Roy  
 Greenlee, Cecil  
 Grimm, William  
 Grimm, Bryan  
 Hilliard, Adlai  
 Haskell, Broderick, Jr.  
 Hogan, Agnes G.  
 (Nurse)  
 Harding, Briant E.  
 Hulin, William W.  
 Hyatt, Claude O.  
 House, Guy B.  
 Hovis, Herbert  
 Hovis, John J.  
 Holmes, Phillip S.  
 Hesta, Louis J.  
 Hart, Paul R.  
 Heffern, Thomas F.  
 Harris, Stanley J.  
 Hollister, Francis B.  
 Henderson, Robert J.  
 Hoover, David L.  
 Homan, Glenn R.  
 Harris, Otto Paul  
 Homan, McKinley  
 Hefferman, Bryan S.  
 Hollinbaugh, John T.  
 Hovis, Leonard R.  
 Hood, Wilbur B.  
 Hood, J. S.  
 Hazleton, Paul  
 Herb, Louis J.  
 Herriman, T. H.  
 Harvey, H. W.  
 Hoefling, Fred  
 Harton, Albert F.  
 Herkalhorne, Lee J.  
 Hayes, Carl  
 Hannold, Archie W.  
 Hovis, George W.  
 Hughes, Russell B.  
 Hancox, Richard A.  
 Hawkins, Oliver B.  
 Harriman, Thomas  
 Hepler, Clarence  
 Hefferman, James  
 Heckathorn, Guy  
 Heath, Paul G.  
 Howard, Frank A.  
 Harris, Stanley J.  
 Harvey, Frank C.  
 Heckathorn, Lee J.  
 Hollobaugh, Chas. R.  
 Herring, David H.  
 Hovis, Norman A.  
 Heeter, John N.

Hedley, Frank E.  
 Hodgson, John Robert  
 Hughes, Homer  
 Higbee, Don  
 Homan, Dale  
 Haggerty, William H.  
 Henry, John, Jr.  
 Hoffman, William L.  
 Hoover, John  
 Hurd, George R.  
 Hamilton, Hugh A.  
 Hammerle, Geo. Glenn  
 Herring, William  
 Hefferman, Plumer L.  
 Hoffman, Rex V.  
 Higgins, Edward A.  
 Haney, John Augustine  
 Holofkoff, William M.  
 Holofkoff, John  
 Hazlett, Ira T.  
 Heasley, Frederick L.  
 Hutchinson, Lawrence R.  
 Homan, La Rue  
 Hancox, Maurice D.  
 Hughes, Angus  
 Hurt, Mark  
 Hutchinson, Stanley H.  
 Harding, Harry W.  
 Hollobaugh, Ray  
 Hayes, Carl J.  
 Hovis, Charles R.  
 Hart, Elmer Q.  
 Horrobin, Grove Merrill  
 Houser, Edgar H.  
 Heckathorn, Roy A.  
 Hughes, Donald M.  
 (Oil City)  
 Hasson, Harry A.  
 Huff, George Hazen  
 Homan, John Foster  
 Heckathorn, Floyd B.  
 Hollister, Henry  
 Hurd, Eugene S.  
 Huston, Edwin H.  
 Hause, Harvey J.  
 Henderson, John B.  
 Hughes, Basil B.  
 Haylett, Benjamin A.  
 Hazlett, Roy T.  
 Hazlett, Claude Bird  
 Hoffman, Scott J.  
 Hughes, Robert Arien  
 Heasley, Frederick L.  
 Hilliard, Ellis M.  
 Heath, William M.  
 Hartzell, Ollie O.  
 Herman, Jacob F.  
 Hayes, Robert  
 Harkless, Paul  
 Hays, James W.  
 Hecker, Edwin C.  
 Huddleson, Robert R.  
 Hoffman, Coulter H.  
 Harvey, Chas. E.  
 Henderson, Sherman  
 Henderson, Oral S.  
 Harper, Andrew J.  
 Husselton, Ralph  
 Hoffman, Roy  
 Hoffman, McKinley  
 Hoffman, Wm. C.  
 Hovis, Francis  
 Hovis, Nolie F.

- Hamilton, Andrew  
 Inman, Ray  
 Ingraham, Byron G.  
 Irwin, Arthur W.  
 Ingraham, Lyman  
 Jones, Charles  
 Johnston, James  
 Jones, Cyril Richard  
 Jordon, Paul  
 Johnston, Clark P.  
 Jolley, Frank H.  
 Jenkins, Morris C.  
 Jacobs, Clarence E.  
 Jordan, Ira E.  
 Johnson, Harry J.  
 Jeunet, E. Alexis  
 Johnson, George  
 Johnson, Frank A.  
 Johnson, Clarence  
 Johnson, Francis H.  
 Johannessen, Henry  
 Johnston, Paul  
 Johnson, Jess  
 Jackson, William  
 Johnson, Harry W.  
 Johnston, Roe  
 Johnston, Craig E.  
 Johnson, Fred H.  
 Jones, Robert L.  
 Jones, Owen F.  
 Kilgore, Donald  
 Kahn, Eugene M.  
 Kargol, Mike  
 Kope, Estil G.  
 Kinnear, George E.  
 Kingsley, Guy H.  
 Kopf, Milo M.  
 Keith, Clifford D.  
 Kelly, Arthur C.  
 Kelly, Peter D.  
 Kinney, John M.  
 Kilgore, Samuel F.  
 Karns, Lillian (nurse)  
 Karns, Fred P.  
 Kennedy, Harold S.  
 Keplinger, Miller  
 Kean, Beryl E.  
 Kightlinger, Lloyd O.  
 Kargol, Tony  
 Karns, Roy Anderson  
 Kinsley, Hiram Moulton  
 Kelsey, Ned A.  
 Kyle, Alex  
 Kennedy, Harry Clark  
 King, Byron J.  
 Kingsley, George M.  
 Kanhofer, William  
 Kelly, W. W.  
 King, Forrest W.  
 Kenrod, Harold  
 King, Fred  
 Kuhns, John Edwin  
 Keas, Clyde A.  
 Kendrick, Byron W.  
 Kunkle, Albert  
 Kinney, Pearl S.  
 Kullman, Oscar G.  
 Lindsey, Donald B.  
 Liedecker, L. L.  
 Lankford, Nehemiah  
 Layton, Harold  
 Leta, Salvatore  
 Luce, Harold
- Lapsley, Dale  
 Licastro, Long  
 Lawson, Harold  
 Lindsay, Samuel W.  
 (Oil City)  
 Lazo, Pete  
 Luton, Roy A.  
 Lusher, Harry J.  
 Lepley, Robert G.  
 Lavery, Lynn R.  
 Long, Henry  
 Lepley, Clarence C.  
 Lepley, Walter J.  
 Lepley, Alfred A.  
 Long, John A.  
 Law, Albert E.  
 Lawrence, Vivian C.  
 Lawrence, George R.  
 Lequi, Samuel  
 Leaning, John Leon  
 Luton, Clifford  
 Lucas, William R.  
 Landon, Don  
 Lane, Frank S.  
 Law, Carl  
 Lambertson, Lewis M.  
 Lumsden, E. S.  
 Luce, Harris  
 Lowers, Clarence H.  
 Lee, W. H.  
 Lozouchi, Stanley  
 Loco, Tom  
 LaMere, Wm. Paul  
 Lowrey, Samuel C., Jr.  
 Lynn, Harold R.  
 Lawrence, Theodore  
 Lamberton, R. F.  
 McKee, George R.  
 McGill, Carl R.  
 McCurry, Harold E.  
 McCobb, Gaylord P.  
 McKinley, Wade H.  
 McClelland, John A.  
 McCoy, Frederick B.  
 McGlynn, Hurley O.  
 McCoy, Ralph J.  
 McClelland, George B.  
 McKay, Clyde  
 McGinty, Martin A.  
 McCoy, Charles A.  
 McCamey, Cecil Floyd  
 McDowell, Orla E.  
 McCamey, Andrew L.  
 McClelland, Norman T.  
 McDonough, Francis  
 McDowell, William H.  
 McGinty, J. B.  
 McClintock, William M.  
 McClintock, Frederick H.  
 McAlevy, Walter E.  
 McKinney, John H.  
 McKim, Clarence Larry  
 McFarland, Albert L.  
 McGinty, Harry E.  
 McNamara, Julian G.  
 McDonald, Charles  
 McElhaney, Andrew  
 McCall, Leslie R.  
 McGinty, Alphonsus L.  
 McCready, Cyrus G.  
 McGough, Ed V.  
 McGough, Miss Mary Lee  
 (Nurse)
- McCauley, Earl  
 McDaniel, George F.  
 McQuaid, Earl J.  
 McCutcheon, Marshall  
 McNamara, Joseph A.  
 McKenzie, Donald E.  
 McCutcheon, Jesse L.  
 McDowell, Michael  
 McClelland, Quinton J.  
 McCamey, Clifford D.  
 McWilliams, Clarence  
 McClimos, Charles  
 McCune, Clifford H.  
 McQuaid, Carl  
 McQuaid, Reeves  
 McCracken, Wayne  
 McVitty, Margaret  
 McDonnell, Michael  
 McDonald, Francis  
 McGough, \_\_\_\_\_  
 McConnell, Robert  
 McKee, Wm. P.  
 McKee, Craig N.  
 McKinley, Justus S.  
 McElroy, John W.  
 McWilliams, James  
 McCann, Thomas P.  
 McCann, John B.  
 McConnell, Chas. M.  
 Maitland, Merril  
 Maitland, Howard  
 Marsh, Charles E.  
 Moyer, Harry R.  
 Mong, William G.  
 Moore, H. E.  
 Musgraves, John  
 Myers, W. Harry  
 Miller, Jay G.  
 Musgrave, De Witt  
 Mortimer, Chas. J.  
 Mitchell, Ralph V.  
 Mapson, Samuel  
 Miller, John J.  
 Minnick, Robert E.  
 Mulligan, William J.  
 Mashew, Clifton J.  
 Mulholand, Addison R.  
 Morrow, Harry C.  
 Meals, Floyd  
 Miller, Lawrence E.  
 Mays, George W.  
 Manson, David L.  
 Manson, George  
 Melat, Robert F.  
 Melat, Merle  
 Morave, James E.  
 Maher, James E.  
 Miller, Harvey Basil  
 Marsh, Simon  
 Metale, Antonio  
 Mitchell, Ray  
 Mellors, Leon L.  
 Meyers, Harry M.  
 Morgan, John D.  
 Mihleder, Gus  
 Miller, Francis E.  
 Milner, Clyde H.  
 Miller, Ellsworth W.  
 Morris, Claude R.  
 Miller, Fred Melvin  
 Myers, G. Frazier  
 Mihleder, Phil G.  
 Morrison, Charles
- Mays, Charles H.  
 Matthews, Angus W.  
 Mouck, Carl  
 Murdock, Alfred Tyler  
 Maher, Joseph W.  
 Mitchell, John L.  
 Musgraves, Frank Miles  
 Maloney, John James  
 Maher, John P.  
 Meehan, Thomas Walter  
 Montgomery, Reurick H.  
 Mitchell, Francis Victor  
 Miller, Paul A.  
 Mason, James E.  
 Mack, Emil F.  
 Murphy, Oliver C.  
 Mulholland, Leo B.  
 Murdock, Elmer M.  
 Mausberger, Earl A.  
 Martin, Steven  
 Mong, Harold  
 Mong, Melvin M.  
 Murdock, John E.  
 Morrison, Roy  
 Matthews, Cyrus W.  
 Moffett, Bruce  
 Manrose, Lawrence  
 Matthews, C. J.  
 Matthews, Wade  
 Moore, Cowden  
 Miller, Frank  
 Matzka, John J., Jr.  
 Mellars, Lewis J.  
 Morando, Tony  
 Murphy, Richard  
 Murphy, Robert  
 Mint, Charles  
 Mayho, Simon  
 Myers, Wayne  
 Musgrave, Nicholas E.  
 Murrin, James A.  
 Minin, John A.  
 Maloney, George A.  
 Mehrten, Frank W.  
 Maloney, Edward Wm.  
 Maloney, Charles Henry  
 Montgomery, Harry O.  
 Mong, Loyd  
 Myers, Charles  
 Murdock, McKinley  
 Murphy, Joseph  
 Miller, Thomas P.  
 Minnick, Harry  
 Nicklin, Bryan E.  
 Nelson, Joseph J.  
 Nelson, Frank T.  
 Nicklin, Mont  
 No-boom, Eric N.  
 Neely, Walter C.  
 Nelson, Victor  
 Neely, Robert Gordon  
 Nays, George W.  
 Neely, Eugene W.  
 Napoli, Sam  
 Norris, John  
 Nichols, William Oscar  
 Newson, Vincent  
 Neely, Archie R.  
 Neely, Herbert  
 Naile, Bird  
 Natale, Tony  
 Nanen, Samuel  
 Nelson, Glenn

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

- Osborne, Harry E.  
 Orlando, Tony  
 O'Neil, Alfred J.  
 Ohler, Hayes B.  
 O'Conner, Owen B.  
 Officer, Frank W., Jr.  
 Officer, Robert  
 Osmer, James H.  
 Officer, S. Plumer  
 O'Neil, Earl D.  
 O'Brien, Charles Ralph  
 O'Neil, John F.  
 Osborne, Homer  
 Owen, Oscar L.  
 O'Neil, Lloyd D.  
 Ogelsby, John B.  
 Olson, Albert O.  
 Ohler, Charles Milton  
 Olson, Robert O.  
 Ohler, Clarence  
 Osmer, Gilbert G.  
 Osmer, Harold  
 Osborn, Raymond  
 Orcutt, Russell M.  
 Platt, Henry  
 Porter, Richard H.  
 Phipps, Thomas  
 Phipps, Clifford C.  
 Pettit, Harold  
 Petrini, Louis  
 Porter, James H.  
 Perry, Robert  
 Peterson, Judson  
 Patroski, Tony  
 Piser, Clyde  
 Polka, Louis  
 Palmer, Leo W.  
 Platt, Wesley  
 Philip, Lester P.  
 Porter, George V.  
 Porter, Wm. R.  
 Porter, Andrew J.  
 Palmer, W. J.  
 Pringle, Gail Willard  
 Pardoe, Benjamin H.  
 Plank, John  
 Plank, John S.  
 Platt, Leonard W.  
 Paden, Ernest E.  
 Phillips, Clifford E.  
 Pease, Frank W.  
 Purdey, Archie Edward  
 Probst, Charles A.  
 Perry, Rand  
 Proper, Lloyd L.  
 Petrini, Alfred J.  
 Palmer, Clarence R.  
 Perry, Arthur  
 Proudfoot, Frank  
 Pierce, Charles A.  
 Pearson, Francis E.  
 Pierce, Floyd  
 Prall, Carl  
 Perrine, Daisy (Nurse)  
 Peterson, Francis D.  
 Pasquale, William D.  
 Perry, Floyd C.  
 Partaker, George  
 Palm, Robert L.  
 Philp, Peter P.  
 Pearson, Floyd M.  
 Parker, Lebbins
- Parsons, Milton  
 Pashley, Emil F.  
 Perry, Harry S.  
 Frenatt, Fred  
 Perrine, Ross Edward  
 Quinn, George  
 Quinn, Wm. Earl  
 Reisinger, James W. H.  
 Robbins, Hartwell G.  
 Ross, Charles  
 Reisenman, Edward M.  
 Read, Clyde McC.  
 Rice, James  
 Rial, J. Fred  
 Rogers, Glenn R.  
 Reisenman, Claire A.  
 Roncone, Giovanni  
 Ross, Cleon J.  
 Rough, Fred Newton  
 Ritchey, George William  
 Robertson, Philip S.  
 Rose, Max  
 Rankin, William  
 Ream, Harry G.  
 Rand, Frank  
 Reisinger, Conrad D.  
 Reisinger, Richard E.  
 Ross, Harry F.  
 Romoa, Frank  
 Russell, Wm. L. (O. C.)  
 Raynor, Clair S.  
 Reagle, Walter F.  
 Reib, Denny N.  
 Ross, Alonzo H.  
 Ream, Charles A.  
 Roxbury, John Chester  
 Russell, Henry C.  
 Rice, Daniel Hazen  
 Runninger, Daniel Lewis  
 Rowley, Bryan  
 Runninger, Robert W.  
 Robinson, Herbert  
 Rhodes, Elmer W.  
 Ratterwill, John  
 Rhoads, Samuel R.  
 Rhoads, Warren D.  
 Rice, Leonard  
 Reese, H. E.  
 Romali, Frank  
 Ross, John D.  
 Ricalton, Robert F.  
 Rogers, Alfred M.  
 Rattenni, John  
 Reed, N. S.  
 Rogers, Edward M.  
 Rice, Frank L.  
 Richards, Clyde  
 Riddle, James Dana  
 Russell, Leroy  
 Rupert, John L.  
 Rudesill, Edwin Arthur  
 Renninger, Howard E.  
 Reynolds, Herbert L.  
 Reisinger, Henry G.  
 Redmond, John Howard  
 Rogers, Frank J.  
 Read, Robert E.  
 Richard, W. D.  
 Ross, George B.  
 Renninger, Robert  
 Rankin, E. L.  
 Rogers, Alan
- Reid, Alexander  
 Runninger, Guy  
 Rump, Henry  
 Ross, Charles  
 Rosenberg, Clarence E.  
 Richey, James C.  
 Smith, Myron  
 Stark, Lawrence C.  
 Smith, Ralph  
 Seifer, Francis R.  
 Squires, Norman  
 Shaw, Donald  
 Say, Harry  
 Sherlock, Dean C.  
 Strange, Carle W., M. D.  
 Small, Ronald A.  
 Sousae, Merle F.  
 Simpson, Lewis E.  
 Shoney, Charles Elmer  
 Smith, Francis H.  
 Sollinger, Paul Leisure  
 Shorts, Robert L.  
 Scriven, Joseph E.  
 Sterling, Chester  
 Snell, Harold  
 Smith, Frederick E.  
 Smith, Lawrence J.  
 Stukens, Murl Herbert  
 Silverman, William  
 Smith, Herrold S.  
 Smith, Clarence L.  
 Scriven, William Lester  
 Small, Samuel L.  
 Snyder, Carl E.  
 Swisher, John Leroy  
 Seig, Antonis  
 Smith, Henry H.  
 Snyder, Vernon C.  
 Scott, Joseph E.  
 Service, David E.  
 Schreifer, John G.  
 Seekins, Joseph W.  
 Solle, Peter  
 Scannell, David W.  
 Sarone, Joe  
 Shorts, Chester  
 Sayers, Vance W.  
 Smith, Norman C.  
 Sibble, George W.  
 Stewart, Allen  
 Scannell, Evan E.  
 Sechler, Abraham  
 Sloan, Leonard L.  
 Salsgiver, Howard  
 Shaffer, F. I.  
 Shields, Harry P.  
 Shuffstall, Ralph L.  
 Sullivan, Lawrence J.  
 Scott, Roy W.  
 Sterrett, Lester E.  
 Stewart, George H.  
 Sloan, Harry M.  
 Smith, Ernest  
 Swatsler, Foster  
 Spiroff, Alex  
 Stoner, Byron  
 Sterling, Lester A.  
 Sterling, Clyde B.  
 Shriner, Harold D.  
 Stevenson, Harold H.  
 Smock, Vernie H.  
 Strauss, James R.
- Sutley, Elmer D.  
 Sanders, R. E.  
 Stadler, Orville E.  
 Shaffer, Clarence  
 Stokes, W. M.  
 Sciarrone, Joe  
 Snyder, Clarence E.  
 Smith, Fred F.  
 Saunier, Harold P.  
 Stallsmith, James E.  
 Sichi, Leopold  
 Serge, Dominic  
 Sciarrone, James  
 Speer, Hallock J.  
 Sandieson, George A.  
 Shaw, James C.  
 Shoup, Miles C.  
 Speer, James H.  
 Stone, Harry S.  
 Steinbrenner, Chas M.  
 Seaton, Harold A.  
 Serge, Tony  
 Sobota, George  
 Starrett, L. A.  
 Shorts, Clarence  
 Schossler, Michael  
 Stevens, Homer C.  
 Szibit, Andy  
 Smith, Clarence  
 Simpson, Ward C.  
 Servey, Charles H.  
 Snyder, Harold C.  
 Serge, Patsy  
 Steele, Harry C.  
 Snell, Harry E.  
 Seabrook, J. Thorney  
 Slocum, Harry M.  
 Stewart, William C., Jr.  
 Shultz, Frank A.  
 Seifer, Frank R.  
 Sweeney, Charles M.  
 Southem, Alven  
 Swisher, Perry Edw.  
 Smith, Helen H.  
 (Bureau Standards,  
 Washington, D. C.)  
 Shaffer, Frederick D.  
 Stahlman, Sidney E.  
 Sires, Arthur Boyd  
 Sterling, Don C.  
 Shaffer, F. S.  
 Smith, Harry  
 Smith, Ashur M.  
 Strawbridge, Ralph B.  
 Smith, John M.  
 Slitter, James H.  
 Sedari, Paul  
 Stover, Milo E.  
 Shoup, Leroy C.  
 St. Clair, Robert S.  
 Simmons, Alfred M.  
 Shorts, Richard P.  
 Squires, Winfield  
 Sisney, Arthur W.  
 Shoffstall, Harold C.  
 Shoffstall, Wallace L.  
 Smullen, R. L.  
 Satterwhite, Rob. L., Jr.  
 Shoney, William Roy  
 Staatler, Ludwig W.

Steen, Joe  
 Simonson, William D.  
 Sutherland, David L.  
 Slitter, Herbert  
 Scott, Earl  
 Shorts, Leo  
 Smith, John N.  
 Smith, Martin  
 Simpson, Floyd  
 Shoney, Phares  
 Sterrett, Forrest  
 Sterrett, Jesse  
 Sterrett, Lynn  
 Siefer, Roy  
 Taylor, William C.  
 Thayer, Harold Roy  
 Tarr, George J.  
 Tarr, Albert D.  
 Tracy, Dean B.  
 Thorn, Thomas D.  
 Thorn, Lewis A.  
 Tirk, Emmett Burdell  
 Thorn, John A.  
 Temple, Walter L.  
 Thomas, Ira  
 Titus, Leonard Ray  
 Thomas, Harry H.  
 Thomas, Herbert G.  
 Thompson, E. Vance  
 Thompson, Dr. A. C.  
 Thompson, Abraham  
 Thompson, Ralph  
 Terrill, R. A.  
 Thompson, J. R.  
 Theobald, Joseph  
 Tibbens, Parker  
 Tarr, Basil  
 Tibbens, Dr. Clyde  
 Taylor, William C.  
 Tingley, Herbert Donald  
 Thompson, Ross  
 Umstead, William B.  
 Umstead, Harry L.  
 Urban, Joseph  
 Voorhies, Leon P.  
 Vogus, Carl  
 Vandyke, Scott D.  
 Vogan, Leslie H.  
 Vogan, Edward S.  
     (Oil City)  
 Vroodu, Joseph  
 Vincent, J. Collins  
 Vincent, David C.  
 Vogus, Fred D.  
 Valenkis, William  
 Voychek, Pete  
 Vogan, Eric A.  
 White, Robert A.  
 Woods, Walter H.  
 Woodburn, James, Jr.  
 Wilson, Edwin G.  
 Wilson, Alfred M.  
 Walker, Warren H.  
 Walker, Herbert E.  
 Williams, Herbert J.  
 Wice, James A.  
 Wood, Alvin E.  
 Wagner, Harvey  
 Walter, James B.  
 Wales, Moses  
 Walinchus, Vincent

Whitman, Harry V.  
 Worden, Ray L.  
 Wetjen, George W.  
 White, Chalmers M.  
 Walters, John F.  
 Whitman, William V.  
 Whitman, Walt  
 Woods, Alan  
 Wensel, Charles F.  
 Walters, F. L.  
 Walter, Alexander  
 White, Albert C.  
 Whitesell, William B.  
 White, William W.  
 Weed, James E.  
 Weikel, Samuel P.  
 Wygant, Charles E.  
 Walls, Moses  
 Wilson, William F.  
 Whitman, Samuel W.  
 Wood, John B.  
 Ware, Karl L.  
 Weiss, Fritz G.  
 Witherup, Lester  
 Waldo, Frank M.  
 Woodell, Glenn  
 Woodell, Joel L.  
 White, Jack  
 Wilt, Glen A.  
 Willyoung, Frederick B.  
 Wertman, Bert  
 Weaver, Joseph Richard  
 Wallace, George Wm.  
 Wolcott, Walter S.  
 White, Robert L.  
 Whitehill, Cassius E.  
 Wood, George S.  
 Whitesell, Carl F.  
 Ward, Myles E.  
 Weston, Norman C.  
 Wallace, Guy  
 White, Donald L.  
 Woods, Stanley  
 Woods, John  
 Walters, Carl  
 Walters, William  
 Walters, Boone  
 Winters, Walter  
 White, J. D.  
 Williams, Warren E.  
 Wood, Glenn  
 Woodworth, Ray  
 Wyss, T. G.  
 West, W. C.  
 Wyant, Chas. E.  
 Woodruff, Wm.  
 Ware, Ralph  
 Yarnell, William G.  
 Yates, Walter G.  
 Yeager, John  
 Young, Homer Otis  
 Yeager, Donovan  
 Young, George W.  
 Zink, George J.  
 Zappia, Patsy  
 Zell, Harry A.  
 Zolopa, Tony  
 Zerbze, J. Irwin (Dr.)  
 Zappia, Pasquale  
 Zuver, Edward L.

Franklin displays its Honor Roll in a case in the park, near the courthouse.

In addition to those already listed, the following entered the service from the Oil City District:

#### OIL CITY DISTRICT

Adams, Edwin James  
 Almon, Sheldon L.  
 Aaron, S. P.  
 Angove, Walter  
 Ahrens, Henry  
 Allen, Edward P.  
 Allen, John  
 Alden, John  
 Alden, James  
 Ausel, Earl  
 Alexander, Stewart M.  
 Attleberger, Arthur A.  
 Arthurs, Warren  
 Arnwine, Robet. Leo  
 Anderson, Dr. R. P.  
 Anderton, Wm. Jas.  
 Anderson, Carl M. N.  
 Ames, Earl  
 Ames, Arthur  
 Applequist, Chris.  
 Alecks, Fred  
 Anderson, Bert  
 Alsbaugh, Denzel  
 Aaron, Frank P.  
 Atkinson, Earl  
 Ange, Tony  
 Anderson, Robert R.  
 Aldrich, Henry V.  
 Baker, Edwin Stewart  
 Burton, Henry D.  
 Bracken, Lloyd  
 Burns, James Wilbur  
 Burns, Orie Claire  
 Brecht, Carl Willis  
 Brennan, Harry J.  
 Brunella, Michael  
 Baumbach, Louis C.  
 Beatty, Carl Thompson  
 Beighley, James Glenn  
 Black, James Cuyler  
 Burton, James  
 Boardman, Wesley  
 Bowers, Andrew M.  
 Buckley, Glenn F.  
 Burdick, John Henry  
 Bohn, George Lionel  
 Beck, Otis Henry  
 Beck, Perry Allen  
 Baily, Rolland C.  
 Breen, Dr. Lawrence W.  
 Bruner, Dr. P. L.  
 Brinton, Benj. Harrison  
 Bickel, John  
 Bartels, Chas. Christian  
 Borland, Geo. E.  
 Beebe, William W.  
 Beigle, Earl  
 Ball, Albert E.  
 Bernella, Anthony  
 Bienella, Anthony G.  
 Brinker, Parks  
 Bigler, William  
 Bioughton, Frank S.  
 Black, Louis A.  
 Banchi, Lloyd  
 Barcroft, S. D.  
 Bigley, Archie M.  
 Byles, Ralph P.  
 Best, Harry Raymond  
 Brown, Fred  
 Barcroft, K. D.  
 Baird, Howard M.  
 Bigley, Clem LeRoy  
 Barber, G. Douglas  
 Biltz, Donald E.  
 Bankson, Elmer  
 Behl, Donald  
 Brambley, Lysie  
 Beaty, Harry  
 Beck, Clyde  
 Bickel, Hobert  
 Best, S. J.  
 Brightshue, Gus  
 Boyer, Russel  
 Budd, Felix  
 Burnham, H. E.  
 Byrd, David  
 Berry, William  
 Breene, Maurice P.  
 Beannelli, Michael  
 Benninger, James A.  
 Burgdofer, Charles  
 Blauser, Frank  
 Barton, Jacob L.  
 Brandon, George  
 Bemis, Leroy  
 Baugher, R. M.  
 Broerman, J. F.  
 Brandon, Torb  
 Bigelow, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Beatty, William  
 Bryner, Donald  
 Burrows, Harry  
 Bailey, Roy  
 Baker, Ferris  
 Botsford, Harry  
 Bumstead, Jotham  
 Bittenbender, John  
 Bell, William  
 Biery, Frank  
 Blauser, Robert  
 Brynes, Ralph  
 Bowman, James A.  
 Bell, Clyde  
 Bell, Harry  
 Barnard, John  
 Barnard, Walter  
 Barnes, Thomas  
 Bell, Fred R.  
 Bell, Marcus

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

- Best, Harry G.  
 Brosnahan, Frank  
 Boyer, Lawrence  
 Brockway, Sherman  
 Brockway, Millard  
 Brinker, Harold  
 Burnett, Theo. W.  
 Bernhardt, George  
 Brightman, E. H.  
 Baumbach, Barnard E.  
 Bucholz, Paul  
 Burk, John  
 Bramhall, A. L.  
 Brakeman, Carl  
 Burns, W. Chalmers  
 Bankson, Lyman Waldo  
 Baupdell, Herbert W.  
 Brown, Joseph L.  
 Bolles, Merrill  
 Black, Barton Harold  
 Bents, Clarence A.  
 Berry, Frank  
 Browsky, Joseph  
 Buckna, Charles  
 Bucholz, A. August  
 Bucholz, Frank J.  
 Bucholz, Joseph  
 Burton, Carl J.  
 Cameron, David Glenn  
 Cameron, Robert  
 Collins, T. A.  
 Collins, J. J.  
 Casey, Edward V.  
 Carner, Albert Jackson  
 Coon, Edward M.  
 Cook, Britton C.  
 Cunningham, Robert J.  
 Clay, Norman Edward  
 Cameron, Alex. Dougald  
 Coulter, Clarence  
 Campbell, Herbert  
 Carroll, Paul L.  
 Carmer, William C.  
 Clark, Fred  
 Curran, John  
 Chamberlain, Leo  
 Cleaves, Jack  
 Crawford, George E.  
 Carroll, Augustine  
 Cotter, Edward Joseph  
 Cromack, William  
 Charlson, Harrison G.  
 Cavanaugh, Ralph H.  
 Cumming, Donald W.  
 Cumming, James G.  
 Carroll, Jerry Lester  
 Chaput, Albert Ernest  
 Chadderden, Byron  
 Camponella, Sandy  
 Connor, Cecil  
 Croda, Frank  
 Craig, J. A.  
 Carkson, George  
 Conners, Glenn  
 Conners, Claude  
 Cummings, Harry E.  
 Chapin, Emma R.  
 (Y. W. C. A.)  
 Cousins, A.  
 Coggan, Frank C.  
 Christ, C. C.  
 Coughlin, J. D.
- Callahan, Harry J.  
 Cavanaugh, George  
 Cavanaugh, Leo  
 Cassidy, L. B.  
 Cavanaugh, Thomas  
 Clark, Lloyd S.  
 Carson, Bertha  
 (R. C. Nurse)  
 Carson, Leroy  
 Cole, Harry  
 Carson, W. J.  
 Cotter, W. P.  
 Cohen, Mayer R.  
 Cohen, Heiman  
 Cotter, W. T.  
 Carner, Andrew  
 Clifford, Charles  
 Coffman, Archie  
 Confer, Frank  
 Confer, Leslie  
 Caton, Ernest A.  
 Carnahan, C. R.  
 Colwell, "Happy"  
 Crawford, Paul R.  
 Curran, Joseph  
 Crawford, John  
 Crawford, Orlo M.  
 Cripps, Carl  
 Cubbison, Cecil  
 Craig, H. Richard  
 Carner, Chauncey  
 Campbell, James  
 Carlson, Elmer J.  
 Clark, Warren  
 Carson, William  
 Covell, Ralph  
 Carey, Russell  
 Carroll, John H.  
 Carroll, Bernard A.  
 Clifford, John C.  
 Conole, Donato  
 Dunkle, Charles H.  
 Donaghey, John A.  
 Davis, A. P.  
 Duncan, Gerald Elmer  
 Dwyer, James E., Dr.  
 Driscoll, Joseph  
 De Wayne, William  
 Dixon, John H.  
 Derrick, Frank  
 Detar, M. L.  
 Dolby, Joseph  
 Davis, George  
 Davis, William  
 Dunmire, F.  
 Dunn, George  
 Dockery, Raymond E.  
 Daugherty, Wilda  
 (Nurse)  
 Delo, Louis J.  
 Delo, Rupert  
 Dolby, E. E.  
 Davies, Samuel E.  
 Diebold, George  
 Davis, R.  
 Dutton, Arthur  
 Dent, R.  
 Dye, E. G.  
 Dunham, Arlen  
 Dunham, Ray  
 Dahlin, Alton  
 Dolby, H. C.
- Delo, Willard  
 Delo, Hugo  
 Dallas, Harry  
 Domres, William  
 DeWayne, Thomas  
 DeWald, Prof. A. G.  
 Downs, Samuel  
 Downs, Thomas  
 Drake, Wesley  
 Dood, Floyd  
 Dengler, John B.  
 Daugherty, Wade  
 Daugherty, Earl  
 Detrich, Rhea  
 Detrich, Glenn  
 Daman, Frank M.  
 Delo, Plumer  
 DeMay, Harry  
 Dill, Vincent J.  
 Donnelly, J. J.  
 Eustine, Thomas F., Rev.  
 Eisenman, Norman W.  
 Eddy, Roy G.  
 Ellert, Otto  
 Ellis, Con R.  
 Eaton, Galen Glen  
 Eaton, Ivan  
 Ehret, Russell  
 Exley, Thomas F.  
 Edmund, Forest  
 Eisenman, Tony  
 Elf, Carl Martin  
 Edwards, Charles F.  
 Eisenman, Edward W.  
 Emmick, Alex  
 Earkin, Lawrence  
 Frack, Leroy  
 Faller, Andrew L.  
 Farrell, Byron R.  
 Fahey, John T.  
 Fox, Alfred Tremaine  
 Fox, Leonard Leroy  
 Fogle, Harry Eugene  
 Foster, Fred Hiram  
 Ford, Loyal T.  
 Frye, Rolland Peoria  
 Fry, Frank L.  
 Fry, Charles J.  
 Fahey, Michael J.  
 Frank, David Stalley  
 Fischer, James A.  
 Fay, Joseph T.  
 Fritz, Harvey E.  
 Framers, Adam  
 Faller, Walter W.  
 Firk, P.  
 Fischer, Chas. G., Jr.  
 Fischer, Henry E.  
 Frinkey, L.  
 First, Gordon W.  
 Fisher, Harold John  
 Ferguson, Henry T.  
 Fawcett, James A.  
 Fawcett, John W.  
 Fry, Lester  
 Fry, Fred  
 Fry, John Willard  
 Fox, Walter  
 Fox, Isaac E.  
 Farringer, Russell  
 Fetterer, Levi  
 Fassett, Fred L.
- Fox, Delford A.  
 Fox, Homer  
 Flynn, Carl V.  
 Flynn, John  
 Flynn, Francis P. M.  
 Fulton, Orrin  
 Frederick, Harry  
 Fish, Prentice  
 Fitzpatrick, J. C.  
 Findley, Lyle  
 Fleming, John  
 Fink, Henry  
 Fink, William  
 Fahey, Joseph  
 Farell, James E.  
 Fisher, Art.  
 Fleckenstein, Lawrence J.  
 Ford, Richard  
 Graham, Orson James  
 Gates, William Henry  
 Grant, John Alex.  
 Gesing, Frank  
 Guttmiller, Fred  
 Gruber, Fred P.  
 Gordon, L. S.  
 Grurey, Daniel F.  
 Goal, George W.  
 Greene, Lee A.  
 Gillette, Adelbert L.  
 Guignon, C. L.  
 Guignon, F. M.  
 George, Irvin  
 Geiger, Charles  
 Glenn, Wayne K.  
 Greene, Harry  
 Goodman, Henry  
 Gilbert, Lewis  
 Goughler, Orrie  
 Greer, John  
 Gilman, S.  
 Gault, Willis C.  
 Garmong, Fred L.  
 Gates, Benjamin R.  
 Gates, George W.  
 Gates, John F.  
 Gates, Lawrence  
 Gates, William J.  
 Girard, Robert  
 Grieff, Thomas F.  
 Gordon, James L.  
 Gordon, H. F.  
 Grant, Harry  
 Gaines, Harry O.  
 Goldberg, Simon  
 Gallagher, Hugh  
 Gent, Harry  
 Gent, Daniel B.  
 Gruber, Joe  
 Hill, James Craig  
 Hilton, Thomas Orin  
 Hyland, John L.  
 Hitterman, Harry  
 Holmes, Floyd M.  
 Hays, Frank R.  
 Henderson, John  
 Hare, Emmet  
 Hahn, Joseph Herman  
 Huddleson, Robert R.  
 Hazlett, Edward O.  
 Holliday, Dorr  
 Hulings, Garnet  
 Hulings, C. M.

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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- Hulings, Norman  
 Hare, Henry P.  
 Howe, LeRoy  
 Howard, Cecil D.  
 Holtz, Fred  
 Hulings, Joseph L.  
 Hughes, Russell  
 Heasley, Clyde G.  
 Hart, Louis  
 Hainsworth, Robert  
 Hill, A. F.  
 Huston, Fred  
 Hill, Gerald  
 Huston, R.  
 Huston, Dana  
 Huston, Harry  
 Holtz, John  
 Hahn, J. A.  
 Hartel, Daniel A.  
 Hueston, Charles E.  
 Heffner, John  
 Heetre, Capt. Arnold  
 Heeter, Floyd  
 Hughes, Carroll  
 Hunter, James G. B.  
 Hunter, Hilton  
 Highfield, Otto  
 Huefner, Leo F.  
 Herrington, E. A.  
 Hood, James S.  
 Hughes, Densel K.  
 Hahn, Kenneth J.  
 Held, William  
 Hays, Earl J.  
 Hood, Willard  
 Heagerty, William H.  
 Hufnagle, John E.  
 Hughes, Arden  
 Huggler, William  
 Howard, Levi W.  
 Hippie, Roy H.  
 Hetzler, Jesse  
 Hanton, Rhea  
 Irrgang, Earl  
 Irwin, George  
 Israel, Rt. Rev. Rogers  
 Irwin, Archie  
 Irwin, Harry  
 Irwin, Joseph  
 Jenkins, John  
 Jennings, Earl  
 Jones, Arthur S.  
 Johnson, Carl  
 Johnson, G. B.  
 Johnson, Oscar E.  
 Johnson, George R.  
 Jolly, Hayes  
 Jones, A. T.  
 Jack, Judd DeMott  
 Jacobs, Clarence E.  
 Johnson, John H.  
 Johnson, J. Arter  
 Jurey, John  
 Johns, Basil  
 Johns, Fulmer  
 Johnston, Harley  
 Jones, Lester  
 Johnson, Robert F.  
 Johnson, Charles B.  
 Javens, Ralph Wilbert  
 Johnson, William James  
 Jamison, Charles
- Jones, H. L.  
 James, Earl F.  
 Johnston, James  
 Johnston, R. Frederick  
 Kuhns, Theodore L.  
 Kitchell, Frank Harold  
 Kurtz, John Fred  
 Kennedy, Donald R.  
 Kramer, Clarence Alex  
 Keefer, George B.  
 Knifer, George B.  
 Kelley, Earl Emanuel  
 Knight, Earl V.  
 Kirkwood, Paul  
 Kingsland, E. H.  
 Kline, Wilbert F.  
 Kelley, W. J. B.  
 Krear, George  
 Kelley, H. E.  
 Kerr, William G.  
 Kaufman, W. Philip  
 Kennedy, John T.  
 Kiler, John R.  
 Koomer, Willard  
 Kinselman, Joseph  
 Klos, E.  
 Knight, Charles  
 Kardl, Leo  
 Kerschner, Edw.  
 Klingler, Donald  
 Kuntz, Alex.  
 Kerr, Sherwood  
 Kane, N. David  
 Kraft, L. A.  
 King, Oren G.  
 Kessler, Harry H.  
 Kroposkie, H.  
 Kelly, Paul  
 Kinney, Patrick  
 Lee, Clarence L.  
 Lamb, Grover C.  
 Lewis, Glenn M.  
 Lawson, William M.  
 Lenser, Otto Albert  
 Leeds, C.  
 Ledebur, Linas V.  
 Leonard, Fred.  
 Lane, Donald Howard  
 Lynam, Vincent  
 Long, Harry Fred  
 Lewis, George  
 Leach, Howard  
 Leach, Robert  
 Lopreski, Guy  
 Lesuer, Ernest  
 Lopresko, Leo  
 Leitze, Louis E.  
 Landis, Charles  
 Loomis, Robert M.  
 Lowrie, Russell  
 Longacre, H. A.  
 Lawrence, Otto  
 Leppine, Max  
 LeVier, Maurice  
 Liken, Charles  
 Liken, Russell  
 Lockard, Carl  
 Long, George Emil  
 Levier, Lester R.  
 Linament, Lon  
 Lusher, Howard T.  
 Londin, Chas. G.
- Lyons, Albert  
 Levi, Theodore S.  
 Ledwon, Waldislow  
 Loop, Bert  
 Lapeno, Nicola  
     (in Italian army)  
 Lewis, Theodore  
 Lalonde, Maurice F.  
 Lober, Clarence B.  
 Lowery, Samuel C.  
 Lawler, John Joseph  
 Linehan, James C.  
 Lynch, John  
 Manson, Victor B.  
 Murray, Chauncey R.  
 Mitchell, John L.  
 Murphy, Joseph W.  
 Maxwell, Samuel, Rev.  
 Mohr, Louis (Capt.)  
 Maddox, J. Edward  
 Maddox, Charles  
 Maddox, Robert  
 Maddox, Donald W.  
 Miller, James Wilbur  
 Meals, R. C. (M. D.)  
 Mansfield, Marshall H.  
 Musser, Clyde  
 Myers, R. J.  
 Malerich, Anthony A.  
 Miller, Benjamin F.  
 Marki, Walter  
 Mackenzie, A. E.  
 Miller, William Taylor  
 Miller, Harry  
 Mitchell, Francis Victor  
 Miller, James Albert  
 Mohr, Frank W.  
 Mitchell, James R.  
 Moyar, Eugene Smith  
 Major, Harold D.  
 Main, William B.  
 Manning, Valentine  
 Murphy, Jos. Wm., Jr.  
 Manning, Vincent  
 Maddox, James Roy  
 Mays, Frank Hamilton  
 Miller, Jacob  
 Mull, Fred  
 Martin, Edward J.  
 Maher, John R.  
 Madden, Joseph  
 Madden, Henry  
 Means, Lawrence N.  
 Montgomery, W. J.  
 Manderville, Laverne  
 Magill, Edgar  
 Monney, Lawrence  
 Moore, Arnold C.  
 Melat, Charles A.  
 Marvin, Clarence  
 Maston, Clarence E.  
 Mild, Fred W.  
 Miller, Paul O.  
 Matthews, Loyd  
 Moore, Oscar C.  
 Moore, C. R.  
 Maczuhkis, John  
 Maczuhkis, Felix  
 Mistarana, Anthony  
 Miller, Roy D.  
 Myers, Frank  
 Moore, James Maitland
- Masters, Shurrel  
 Moser, Henry E.  
 Meade, Frank  
 Maine, William  
 Maine, Charles  
 Mastian, G.  
 Meade, Edward  
 Messines, Sam  
 Mains, Charles C.  
 Moore, John  
 Moore, John P.  
 Morrison, Dick  
 Morrison, George  
 Morrison, Mervin  
 Morrison, Ralph  
 Mault, Dr. Edward  
 Mortimer, Leslie P.  
 Mitchell, Thomas  
 Manderville, Vance  
 Manson, George F.  
 Manson, Herbert  
 Morrow, Walter  
 Mays, Wallie  
 Mays, Sneed  
 Melat, Neal  
 Moon, Floyd  
 McLaughlin, Leo  
 McCoy, Dr. Ira D.  
 McMurdy, Harry  
 McCoy, Ralph  
 McIntyre, L. E.  
 McMurdy, Elmer  
 McKeiver, Alberta  
     (Nurse)  
 McPherson, Budd  
 McDowell, George  
 McElhatten, Ward  
 McCool, John C.  
 McDowell, Ora  
 McDowell, Harold  
 McNulty, Samuel  
 McMichael, Mae  
     (R. C. Stenographer)  
 McPherson, S. T.  
 McCord, Wash. H.  
 McDonald, Manley  
 McClintock, Chas. B.  
 McPherson, John  
 McIntyre, Harold  
 McClemon, L.  
 McDonald, Earl  
 McDowell, Clarence W.  
 McFadden, James E.  
 McAbee, Earl  
 McCray, Robert F.  
 McCray, Robt. Seward  
 McElhanney, K.  
 McCool, Glenn Ivan  
 McDowell, William H.  
 McCarthy, Frank P.  
     (1st Lieut.)  
 McGill, Donald H.  
 McCarthy, Louis L.  
     (1st Lieut.)  
 McLaughlin, Joseph  
 McKissick, Raymond  
 McCombs, John E.  
 McLaughlin, Forest  
 Neubauer, Walter  
 Neubauer, George  
 Neubauer, Carl  
 Nagle, Ellsworth

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

- Nason, Leonard  
 Newton, A. R.  
 Neely, Lester  
 Neely, Clyde S.  
 Nelson, Rudolph  
 Nelson, Ellsworth E.  
 Nolan, P. J.  
 Nelson, Willard  
 Nitzel, O. L.  
 O'Connor, Chas. M.  
 Oaks, Wm. Jacob  
 Osenider, J. Wade  
 Oglesby, J. B.  
 Ohls, George  
 Otto, Oliver  
 O'Conner, J. J.  
 Orlando, Antonio  
 O'Brien, John  
 O'Shea, James P.  
 Olmes, D. Major  
 O'Brien, E. J.  
 Perry, Arthur  
 Payne, M. P.  
 Peterman, Fred G.  
 Philp, Walter James  
 Paca, William (Grad. W. Point)  
 Parker, —  
 Pilewski, Michael  
 Peters, I. P. Edwin  
 Paxton, James  
 Petulla, Frank  
 Patton, Thomas R.  
 Patterson, Clifford  
 Payne, Norman J.  
 Peterman, Charley L.  
 Porterfield, E.  
 Potter, Howard  
 Powell, J. Campbell  
 Petula, James  
 Plyler, Martin  
 Peterson, Clifford H.  
 Pardee, Norman Chas.  
 Petulla, Louis  
 Perrine, Mae  
 Perrine, R. H.  
 Pardee, James  
 Pryor, Morris  
 Perry, Roland  
 Perry, Floyd  
 Perry, Roy  
 Phillips, Dr. Arthur  
 Proctor, Manley  
 Persing, G. G.  
 Perry, Norman  
 Polino, J.  
 Pitroff, Charles  
 Powers, Maurice  
 Quirk, Henry  
 Quirk, John H.  
 Quinlivan, Harry S.  
 Reighner, Harry J.  
 Richey, Harold A.  
 Reed, Charles Rowland  
 Rogers, John C.  
 Roess, Charles Hugo  
 Ray, Raymond  
 Richards, Charles  
 Roess, George Paul  
 Robinson, John Wilson  
 Rozeski, John B.  
 Rehr, Wilmer
- Rehr, Lewis (2nd Lieut.)  
 Roberts, Le Roy  
 Redmond, Alvin John  
 Russell, Harold E.  
 Reese, Ernest L.  
 Reed, Raymond D.  
 Reed, Theodore A.  
 Rabe, Walter  
 Rooker, Frank  
 Rumbaugh, Roland  
 Rumbaugh, John  
 Riffenberg, Harold  
 Roth, Ernest  
 Rankin, Walter  
 Reynolds, D.  
 Roeche, George  
 Ready, George A.  
 Rhoads, Daniel  
 Redmond, John J.  
 Ryan, John  
 Renninger, William  
 Reichardt, Herbert W.  
 Russ, George  
 Ross, Samuel  
 Rickert, W. Chas.  
 Ritchey, Amos  
 Rondinelli, Tony  
 Runninger, G. W. H.  
 Rothe, William R.  
 Rapp, Peter  
 Rapp, Owen  
 Ritts, Willis  
 Ritts, Frank  
 Rhoades, Ralph  
 Reynolds, C. Strayer  
 Ralston, George  
 Ralston, James  
 Rousch, Clarence  
 Rickenbrode, C.  
 Reilly, Miss Elsie W.  
 Rice, Willard  
 Reed, Truman P.  
 Riley, Arthur  
 Ritchie, John  
 Rogers, Edward  
 Rodgers, Scott  
 Richard, Joseph A.  
 Remus, Chas., Jr.  
 Reilly, J. J.  
 Runninger, William  
 Rectero, Michael  
 Rapp, Stephen  
 Rapp, Joseph  
 Rugh, Harry  
 Rowley, Byron  
 Reed, Roy T.  
 Reynolds, David  
 Remus, Chas. G.  
 Shreffler, Arnold J.  
 Smith, Horace P.  
 Sweeney, Charles M.  
 Schneider, Vincent  
 Silberman, Jacob  
 Strickenburger, A. W.  
 Schwabenbauer, H. E.  
 Staab, Charles H.  
 Schwabenbauer, C. P.  
 (R. C. Nurse)  
 Schaeffer, Robert R.  
 Schaeffer, Walter A.  
 Schmude, Ernest Jacob  
 Schrag, Lenard, Jr.
- Speer, Lester L.  
 Smith, Frank  
 Sandrock, Ernest P.  
 Sporer, Philip M.  
 Simon, Charles A.  
 Standley, Charles E.  
 Starkey, Manley Clyde  
 Steadman, Glenn R.  
 Sheridan, P. J. (M. D.)  
 Sponsler, Samuel  
 Summerville, F. M., Dr.  
 Smith, John Earl  
 Stormer, Robert  
 Stormer, Wayne  
 Springer, James E.  
 Schwartzcop, Roy W.  
 Shoup, Miles E.  
 Shannahan, Jack  
 Spence, Russell A.  
 Speer, Paul M. (1st Mass.)  
 Surro, John  
 Survey, Charles Henry  
 Saunders, Plumer  
 Skelly, Daniel J.  
 Stroup, Walter Roy  
 Stover, John  
 Stuchel, George  
 Stuchel, Norman D.  
 Squires, Albert  
 Schruers, Miss Winifred (Nurse)  
 Stevens, J.  
 Stevenson, Frederick  
 Surmach, John  
 Stover, Nesson C.  
 Snyder, Wm. Guy  
 Seep, Alfred  
 Smith, Elmer L.  
 Smith, C. A.  
 Small, C. R.  
 Spangler, Cooper  
 Smith, Wayne  
 Skinner, Gerald L.  
 Strong, George  
 Shelmadine, Shirley  
 Sutton, Walter  
 Starkey, Manley  
 Sabouski, Jos.  
 Sanner, George  
 Schultz, George A.  
 Simon, Paul  
 Sincerny, William H.  
 Shaughnessy, J. E.  
 Shields, Willis  
 Steuart, Thos. A.  
 Smith, Byron  
 Smith, Ernest M.  
 Shirey, Floyd  
 Shakely, Meade E.  
 Showers, Floyd D.  
 Sloan, Ed.  
 Sloan, Edwin  
 Sloan, Myron  
 Sloan, Orlo  
 Sloan, Willis  
 Snyder, Edward A.  
 Snyder, John L.  
 Staples, Naylor  
 Sullivan, John  
 Sloan, Walter  
 Stewart, C. M.
- Sloan, Leonard L.  
 Sloan, Donald  
 Shoup, Samuel F.  
 Sollinger, Paul  
 Shreffler, Jake  
 Schupp, Walter C.  
 Schupp, William A.  
 Sternier, James H.  
 Stack, Edward M.  
 Snyder, Frederick  
 Scharf, Joseph  
 Schultz, Edw.  
 Seep, Joseph, Jr.  
 Sims, Walter M.  
 Simpson, Leo J.  
 Smith, Abe D.  
 Stover, Homer  
 Stover, Melvin  
 Schwab, Clarence M.  
 Sharrar, Dow  
 Slesnick, Isaac R.  
 Slesnick, Jacob L.  
 Sorkin, Meyer  
 Spangler, Donald  
 Stivanson, Archie M.  
 Stoltenberg, William  
 Smith, Maurice  
 Spangler, Albert  
 Smith, Floyd Walter  
 Sharon, Oley  
 Sarkanian, H.  
 Smotek, John  
 Sprague, Clifford  
 Swatsler, C.  
 Stephens, George W.  
 Stubler, P. J.  
 Snyder, Glenn G.  
 Sponsler, John  
 Small, John  
 Sparks, Carl H.  
 Stoltenberg, Fred  
 Stormer, Paul  
 Smathers, W. R.  
 Swartz, J. R.  
 Snyder, Ray  
 Slesnick, David H.  
 Straub, Augustus  
 Straub, Harold  
 Straub, William  
 Stach, George  
 Shaw, Russell S.  
 Sparks, Emmett J.  
 Sheffer, Warren  
 Shoup, Raymond M.  
 Shrum, Leon B.  
 Smith, Arthur H.  
 Strand, Alvin J.  
 Schrag, Otto B.  
 Scott, Geo. Edwin  
 Sheffer, G. W.  
 Smith, Millard F.  
 Sutley, Geo. E.  
 Snyder, Willis  
 Smrekar, Augustus  
 Sullinger, Francis E.  
 Shanahan, John P.  
 Sandrock, Leonard Roy  
 Steen, Clifford  
 Snow, Alson (U. S. M.)  
 Shanahan, Daniel  
 Shreffler, Warren S.  
 Taylor, Chas. Earl

Taylor, H. D.  
 Taylor, William  
 Temple, Angus  
 Temple, Arthur  
 Thompson, Robert  
 Titus, Jack  
 Thompson, Hays  
 Taxler, Fred  
 Thurau, Arthur F.  
 Thompson, Dean L.  
 Thomas, Margaret A.  
 Tyler, Roy E.  
 Thrun, Henry A.  
 Thron, F. W.  
 Toy, F. A.  
 Truby, John  
 Titus, Lennard  
 Truby, Charles F.  
 Timbleine, John  
 Tessmer, F. A.  
 Tobin, John P.  
 Thompson, Hugo  
 Thompson, Harry V.  
 Trax, David Lewis  
 Unger, Frank Juan  
 Vockroth, Forest M.  
 Voorus, Grover  
 Vincent, Ted  
 Vandermark, William  
 Walker, Fred  
 Whitehill, Guy  
 (Capt. M.)  
 Winger, George H.  
 Watson, Thomas  
 Willsie, William Harry  
 Wright, Preston  
 Watson, Ralph Clarence  
 Wallen, Lawrence C.  
 Welms, Charles William  
 Warron, William James  
 Waddell, Franklin Wm.  
 Waldo, Elmer E.  
 Wilbert, Lee N.  
 Wilkins, Clarence C.  
 Watson, Clarence Elder  
 Zworek, Walter Frank  
 Weary, William Joseph  
 Waldo, Kenneth C.  
 Watson, George Dewey  
 Walsh, John Joseph  
 Wood, Leon  
 Woslohn, William  
 Wayne, W. M.  
 (Sergeant 32d Inf.)  
 Weary, F. F.  
 Weigle, George  
 Westinghouse, P.

## CASUALTY LISTS

Naturally, at this date there is not a complete list of the Venango county men included among the killed or wounded. Some time will be required to compile the record, as returns from a great many regiments, and from all branches of the service, must be consulted. No doubt there are a number of names in the following lists which do not appear in the rosters of Companies D and F, 112th Infan-

try (1917), on the Honor Roll given, or on the additional list, but as none of these could be made complete to date the discrepancy is easily understood. The number of killed reported for the 112th Infantry was 350, the wounded 1,731. This, of course, includes many from outside the county.

The record of commissioned officers of the 112th Regiment killed in action was made by a newspaper man serving in the regiment and is undoubtedly complete. It includes two Venango county men. The other lists given are as nearly complete as it is possible to make them at this date. We give the first as it appeared in the *Venango Daily Herald*:

With the 112th Infantry in France, at Buxieres, Dec. 12.—A total of sixteen officers who have been members of the 112th Infantry during its action at the front have died as a result of wounds received under fire or have been killed in action. And if official records ever clear the matter up, Second Lieutenant Walter M. Flynn, variously reported severely wounded and then killed, may be added to the list. But as the official list shows now, there are sixteen names on the honor roll of officer dead. The list follows:

*Killed in Action South of Marne*

WILLIAM C. ORR, 2d Lt., Co. E—Killed in action by shrapnel early on morning of July 15th at Petit Noue.

*Killed in Action North of Marne*

HAROLD D. SPEAKMAN, 2d Lt., Co. E—Killed in action by shellfire July 25th near Courpoil, during the record advance by Captain Phelps, 2d Battalion, with the Red Cross Farm as the third objective in one day.

JAMES M. HENDERSON, Captain, Co. D—Killed in action by shrapnel July 26th in Foret de Fere near Le Charmel. The shell which killed Captain Henderson made a direct hit.

EMIL E. H. LAUTERWASSER, 2d Lt., Co. L—Killed in action by shellfire, Aug. 7th, near Villa Savoye. This enemy shellfire, in point of concentration, was declared by Colonel Rickards to be the heaviest of the war up to that time.

*Argonne Casualties the Heaviest*

It was in the great push through the Argonne, Sept. 26th-Oct. 9th that the 112th was hardest hit. The following are the officer dead:

LOUIS RAYMOND ABEL, 1st Lt., Co. M—

Killed in action Sept. 27th by gunshot wound above the heart.

HUGH R. DOANE, Captain, Co. H—Killed in action Sept. 29th by gunshot wound. Captain Doane had previously been wounded in action in fighting south of the Marne in July.

RANDALL S. HOUGHTON, 2d Lt., Co. A—Killed in action by machine gunfire Sept. 29th. He was one of the best liked of the young lieutenants in the command—a Corry boy of whom all were proud.

FREDERICK O. BLANKENSHIP, 1st Lt., Co. L—Killed in action on Sept. 28th by gunshot wound. He was one of the old 16th officers.

WALTER V. AGIN, 2d Lt., Co. D—Killed in action Oct. 1st.

PHILIP E. KRIECHBAUM, 2d Lt., Co. C—Killed in action Oct. 2d by gunshot wound.

JAMES A. SHANNON, Lt. Colonel—Died Oct. 7th from gunshot wound received when a Hun sniper picked him off. Colonel Shannon was watching the taking of Chatel Chehery from a doorway in the town when he received his fatal wound.

FRANK R. FLEMING, 1st Lt., Co. M—Died from wounds on Oct. 11th received in action on the third day of the Argonne battle. He was in command of his company when German machine-gunners picked him off in an open field.

ROBERT F. ARNOLD, 2d Lt., Co. H—Died Oct. 13th from shrapnel wounds received in action in early part of Argonne battle.

#### *Thiaucourt Front*

DANIEL F. McCARTHY, 2d Lt., Co. D—Died Oct. 23d at Base Hospital 22 from pneumonia, following wounds received in action.

ALEXANDER M. RUSSELL, 2d Lt., Co. L—Killed in action Nov. 2d by shellfire near Haumont.

#### *Taking of Fismette*

Released American soldiers, who are returning to the 112th from the German prison camp at Rastatt, confirm earlier stories of the fatal wounding in action of Second Lieut. Joseph A. Landry, Company C, during the German attack on Fismette on Aug. 17th. The stories now agree that Lieutenant Landry was shot down by German snipers, and died in the streets of Fismette, while the battle was going on.

No braver men ever went into battle than these officers of the regiment—and their memory today is honored by those who still live, wounded or unwounded, and who know that

they fought every step of the way as only patriotic, God-fearing American soldiers can.

#### *Oil City District—Died in Service*

According to a recently published newspaper list, fifty-seven men from the Oil City district died while in the service, of whom seventeen were killed in action, thirty-six died of disease, and four were killed at camps, as follows:

LEO G. ALLEN, 112th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

WILLIAM F. BARTELS, 116th D. B., Camp Lewis, Wash., died at camp.

MARCUS BELL, 6th Reg. Naval Reserve. Newport, R. I., died of pneumonia.

CLEO BARGERSTOCK, died at camp.

KAY DAVID BARCROFT, 34th Co., M. G. T. C., Route 3, died of pneumonia at Camp Hancock.

NICHOLAS CHECKARIS, Co. B, 61st Infantry, killed in action.

ROY LEE CHERRY, 8th Mach. Gun Bn., A. E. F., killed in action.

FRANK C. COGGON, 5th Co., 2d Casual Eng. Bn., died at sea.

RICHARD CRAIG, Co. F, 26th Inf., A. E. F., died of pneumonia, in France.

ERNEST CRIDLER, Co. D, 112th Regiment, killed in action.

THOMAS P. CAVANAUGH, Great Lakes Training School, died of influenza.

RALPH CARR, A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

THOMAS J. DEWAN, Co. L, 32d Inf., died in Philippines.

GEORGE LESTER DAVIS, 79th Prov. Co., Sanitary Relief Dept., A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

GEORGE J. DIEBOLD, Cavalry, Columbus Barracks, died of blood poisoning.

JOHN D. ESTESS, died of disease.

WALTER FLYNN, lieutenant, Co. D, 112th Inf., died in France.

ALFRED HITTERMAN, Co. L, 320th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

JAMES MCKENZIE HENDERSON, Co. D, 112th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

E. G. HENRY, lieutenant, Medical Corps, died in England of influenza-pneumonia.

WENDELL C. HUFF, Co. B, 10th Tr. Bn., A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

WADE HAROLD HOFFMAN, Camp Upton, L. I., died of influenza.

ADEN INGHAM, Co. D, 112th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

ROBERT C. JOHNSON, Base Hospital No. 57, A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

GEORGE KIGHTLINGER, 109th Reg., Co. N, A. E. F., killed in action.

ROBERT B. KILBURN, Base Hospital 57, A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

KOSTANTI KOPROSKI, Base Hospital 57, A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

LAWRENCE KISTLER, Base Hospital 57, A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

LESTER KISTLER, Naval Reserves, died at Camp May.

ALEXANDER KUHNS, Co. L, 320th Inf., killed in action.

JAMES LENIHAN, Co. B, 16th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

FRED LANTZ, Aero Squad, B, Carruthers Field, Texas, killed at camp.

JAMES E. LOWE, killed in action.

THOMAS McCARTHY, Naval Reserve Aviator, Pensacola, Fla., killed at camp.

ARTHUR MILLARD, Co. E, Camp Lee, Va., died at camp.

HENRY A. MOON, Battery D, 1st T. M. Bn. Reg., returned home on account of tuberculosis and died of same.

HARRY P. MADDEN, Camp Wadsworth, S. C., died of pneumonia.

FRANCIS B. PRICHARD, Co. D, 16th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

TONY PETULLA, Co. D, 112th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

STANLEY PLANTE, Co. M, 18th Battalion, Camp Lee, Va., died at camp.

FRANK M. PURSE, 317th Signal Corps, A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

LYONEL REARICK, Engrs. Bn., Canadian E. F., died in action.

JOSEPH H. RUGH, A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

JOHN W. RYAN, Co. L, 32d Inf., El Paso, Tex., killed at camp.

GEORGE J. ROESCH, Co. G, 110th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

JOHN EARL SMITH, died at sea.

ALVIN SPLANE, lieutenant, Aviation Corps, killed at West Point, Miss.

FREDERICK STOLTENBURG, Headquarters Co., 162d Inf., A. E. F., died of influenza.

NORMAN STUCHEL, Co. C, 112th Inf., A. E. F., killed in action.

HENRY W. SUHR, Gas & Flame Dept., Saltville, Va., died of pneumonia.

FRED A. TESSMER, Co. D, 111th Inf., U. S. A., killed in action.

F. BRINTON TROSH, Base Hospital 57, A. E. F., died of pneumonia.

FREDERICK ALBERT TOY, P. V. T., Engrs., died at sea.

CLYDE TARR, U. S. Marines, Quantico, Va., died at camp.

CHARLES VANDYKE, Co. D, 112th Inf., A. E. F., died of wounds.

AUGUST J. WASLOHN, Camp Lee, Va., died at camp.

W. NEILL WAITZ, Ordnance Department, Detroit, Mich., died of pneumonia.

We also have record of the death of:

LOUIS HART, in camp.

SAMUEL PETULLA, killed in action.

CLAUDE EBERLY, killed in action.

CHARLES M. EVANS, died in France.

FRANK BROSNAN, died in France.

LEE IRWIN, died in France.

CORPORAL H. E. KELLEY, died in France.

HARRY RUGH, died in France.

FRANCIS MILLER, died in France.

STEPHEN RAPP, died in France.

WILLIAM J. GATES, BASIL JOHNS and FLOYD D. SHOWERS died in hospital or camp.

JOHN GREER, killed in action.

THOMAS DE WAYNE, killed in accident.

JOHN YORK, died in service.

ELICK EMICK, Pleasantville, killed in action.

JESSE J. SHREFFLER, died of disease.

J. POLINO, died of pneumonia.

FRANK MEADE, killed in action.

GERALD L. SKINNER, Pleasantville, died in service.

EARL AMES, Pleasantville, died in service.

OLIVER OTTO, Pleasantville, died in service.

FRANKLIN WILLIAM WADDELL, Pleasantville, died in service.

RALPH F. BANBURY, Lieutenant, British Infantry, died of pneumonia early in war.

WILLIAM BERRY, Corp. Co. I, 22d Eng., died in France March 23, 1919.

RAY C. BINES, S. A. T. C., died of pneumonia Oct. 24, 1918.

ELVA L. BRUCE, died.

EDWARD J. FREDERICKS, died.

JOHN L. KING, died.

WILLIAM R. LAWRENCE, died.

JOHN EDWARD MAYS, Co. D, 108th M. G., A. E. F., died of pneumonia Jan. 5, 1919.

HARLEY F. PETERSON, died.

GEORGE L. SAYLOR, died of disease, October, 1918.

EVERT C. SIGWORTH, killed in action.

#### *Wounded—Oil City District*

(From Oil City Derrick)

SHERIDAN, PHILIP J., son of Mrs. Sheridan, of Olean, N. Y., 16th Co., Brigade Royal Horse Artillery, wounded in action.

EATON, Roy C., Petroleum street, Oil City, Private Co. G, 38th U. S. Infantry, severely wounded in action Aug. 8, 1918.

MILLER, THOMAS R., No. 129 Plumer street,

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

OIL CITY, Corporal, Co. D, 112th U. S. Infantry, wounded in action.

MCCLELLAN, BENJAMIN F., Rouseville, Sergeant Co. B, 303d Machine Gun Battalion, wounded in action.

MCFADDEN, JAMES E., McClintockville, Corporal Co. G, 38th U. S. Infantry, wounded in action.

MOORE, THOMAS H., Halyday street, Oil City, Co. D, 112th U. S. Infantry, wounded in action.

WADSWORTH, WILLIAM R., Oil City, Lieutenant 112th U. S. Infantry, gassed July, 1918.

BROWN, WILLIAM E., Oil City, Private Co. F, 112th U. S. Infantry, wounded and gassed July 15, 1918.

COLLINS, ERROL, No. 105 East Second street, Oil City, First Class Private 112th U. S. Infantry, gassed in action July 30, 1918.

CUNNINGHAM, ROBERT J., No. 201 Crawford street, Oil City, wounded in action.

MAIN, WILLIAM B., Rouseville, Pa., Private Co. D, 112th U. S. Infantry, wounded in action July 21, 1918.

WASLOHN, WALTER J., No. 116 Clarion street, Oil City, Co. E, 28th U. S. Infantry, A. E. F., wounded in action July 11, 1918.

ORR, FLOYD, No. 312 East Fourth street, Oil City, Private Co. D, 112th U. S. Infantry, wounded in action.

BRENOT, LAWRENCE, No. 119 Hoffman avenue, Oil City, Medical Department, 18th U. S. Infantry, wounded in action.

HENRY JOHANNESSEN, Co. L, 320th Inf., 80th Div., reported killed in action Sept. 26, 1918, in Argonne drive.

EARLY, WILLARD M., No. 9 Crawford street, Oil City, Chief Surgeon's Office, 42d Division Headquarters, wounded in action.

SCHOONOVER, JAMES W., No. 207 West Front street, Oil City, Private Co. D, 122d U. S. Infantry, severely wounded Sept. 26, 1918.

LOANE, CHARLES E., West First street, Oil City, Captain Co. L, 316th U. S. Infantry, wounded in action.

ALLSBAUGH, ROLLIN CARL, Co. G, 168th Infantry, 42d Division.

EDWARDS, CHARLES FRED, No. 343 Washington avenue, Oil City, Headquarters Co., 320th U. S. Infantry, severely wounded Oct. 16, 1918.

GROVE, JAMES D., Co. L, 320th U. S. Infantry, severely wounded in action.

HARE, WILLIAM P., No. 109 Harriot avenue, Oil City, 328th U. S. Infantry, gassed in action.

GATES, RALPH, Oil City, 133d Co., 1st Reg. Battalion, U. S. Marines, severely wounded.

KIRKWOOD, MELVIN C., Rouseville, Corporal Co. D, 12th Machine Gun Battalion, wounded July 19, 1918.

ROGERS, JOHN G., Oil City, 134th Co., 4th Regiment, Marine Barracks, wounded July 16, 1918.

Additional names of wounded from this district have been secured from various sources, as follows:

JOHN HEGEDUS, slightly wounded in France.  
WILLIAM LAWSON, severely wounded.

CORP. BERNARD RILEY, wounded twice; officially cited by French government for bravery in action in leading his squad against a machine gun nest (in which action he was wounded) and awarded the Croix de Guerre, together with official citation.

ALEXANDER C. MCINTYRE, wounded, gassed, shell shocked.

ARCHIE IRWIN, wounded, Argonne Forest, Sept. 20, 1918.

DAVID TRAX, wounded, Argonne Forest, Sept. 30, 1918.

ROBERT F. JOHNSON, gassed at Chateau Thierry.

GORDON J. CLARKE, wounded Sept. 27, 1918, Argonne Forest.

WADE DAUGHERTY, wounded at Verdun Oct. 8, 1918.

TONY RONDINELLI, reported missing.

JOHNSON, CHARLES, wounded in action.

RANKIN, ARTHUR, wounded.

SULLINGER, FRANCIS, wounded.

LEWIS, JAMES A., injured.

CAMPBELL, MYRL, wounded.

REED, CHARLES R., wounded.

GORDON, VICTOR E., wounded.

GORDON, JACK, wounded.

IRVIN, LEE, wounded.

CLARK, WARREN, wounded.

The following were reported injured: W. W. Beebe, James A. Benninger, Robert Blaußer, Thomas F. Exley, Prentice Fish, Homer Fox, Gerald Hill, William Huggler, Harry Irwin, Arthur W. Irwin, Wilbert Kline, Otis Linn, Ward McElhatten, Leslie P. Mortimer, Warren Sheffer, Earl C. Stover, Ross Weaver, Oliver Sharrar, Grant W. Rogers, Edgar G. Westlake (badly wounded in action), Charles Geiger, Edward A. Haslett, William H. Whittekin, Lester Russell, Gordon J. Clark, Russell V. Billfaldt, Charles W. Cartwright (twice wounded), E. G. Cook (injured while training), Charles Cook (slightly gassed), Gerald E. Mohnkern, Fred Remus, Roland R. Reynolds.

*Franklin District—Died in Service*

(Red Cross Record)

HAROLD PLUMER ANDERSON, Corporal, from Franklin, Pa., died from wounds; published Jan. 12, 1919.

AUGUS G. ARMSTRONG, died of disease.

RAYMOND A. BROWN, died of wounds.

HOWARD E. BRADSHAW, killed.

GUY R. BROWN, Corporal, 11th Infantry, killed in action in France Oct. 14, 1918.

FREDERICK S. BURFORD, wounded on battlefield in France Sept. 27th, died Sept. 28, 1918.

OREN C. BERLIN, Private, Co. F, 112th Infantry, killed in battle in France, August, 1918.

WILLIAM E. BROWN, Private, Co. F, 112th Infantry, wounded and gassed June 15, 1918; returned to service; wounded in head, Argonne, first drive, Sept. 26th to Oct. 9th; reported dead Nov. 5th.

HERMAN O. CAUVEL, died in Base Hospital No. 76, of pneumonia, Oct. 9, 1918, at Camp Greenleaf, Georgia.

CONNELL, JOHN P., Corporal, Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded Sept. 27, 1918, and died Oct. 3d; promoted to sergeant.

EDWARD W. ECKEL, Private 2,270,466, Co. L, Reg. 320th Infantry, killed in action Nov. 8, 1918, on Meuse front.

FRANK R. FLEMING, First Lieutenant, Co. F, 112th Infantry, wounded in action in France Oct. 9, 1918, died Oct. 11th.

JESSE C. GREER, Private Co. F, 112th Infantry, killed in battle in France, August, 1918.

MURRAY H. GOLDSMITH, died of disease.

CURT GRAHAM, killed in action.

MAURICE D. HANCOX, killed.

JAMES W. HAYS, died at Fort Thomas, Oct. 20, 1918, of pneumonia.

PAUL W. HARKLESS, 305th Engineers, Tr. Camp Lee, Va., died at Edgewood, Md., of influenza.

ROBERT HAYS, died in France in October, 1918, of influenza.

JACOB L. HERMAN, Med. Corps, Base Hospital No. 76, A. E. F., died in Base Hospital No. 76, Vichy, France, Oct. 10, 1918, of pneumonia.

OILIE O. HARTZELL, died of disease in France, Nov. 12, 1918.

EDWIN C. HECKER, Private, Co. F, 112th Infantry, reported killed in action; letter received Nov. 5, 1918.

OWEN F. JONES, Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in abdomen, Forest drive, France, Sept. 26-Oct. 3, 1918, died of wounds Oct. 8, 1918.

HARRY W. JOHNSON, Private Co. F, 112th Inf., killed in battle in France, August, 1918.

OSCAR G. KULLMAN, Co. L., 320th Regt., killed in action in France in 1918.

EUGENE M. KAHN, died in action.

HAROLD LAYTON, died at Camp Green, of pneumonia.

PHIL G. MIHLEDER, Cadet, Aeronautic School, Camden, N. J., killed.

FRAZIER MYERS, Squadron H, Kelly Field No. 2, S. San Antonio, Texas, died of pneumonia, Dec. 17, 1918.

ELLSWORTH W. MILLER, Private, Co. C, 109th Inf., killed in action in France, 1918.

ELMER M. MURDOCK, Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., killed in action in France, August, 1918.

EARL A. MAUSBERGER, died of disease.

FRANK MILLER, killed in action.

BIRD NAILE, Private, Co. F, 112th Inf. killed in action, Fismette, barrage falling about three hundred feet short, Aug. 9, 1918.

ROSS EDWARD PERRINE, died of wounds.

FLOYD M. PEARSON, selective service, died W. Penn. Hospital, Pittsburgh, pneumonia, Nov. 2, 1918.

JUDSON PETERSON, Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., died Dec. 18, 1918, from wounds received Aug. 8th in Argonne Forest drive, France.

JOHN D. ROSS, Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., killed on battlefield, France, Fismette, by an American shell, barrage falling three hundred feet short.

HENRY C. RUSSELL, killed.

CLYDE RICHARDS, killed in action.

PHILIP S. ROBERTSON, died in action.

FLOYD D. SHOWERS, killed.

LUDWIG W. STAATLER, 320th Inf., 80th Div., killed in action in France, Oct. 11, 1918.

WILLIAM ROY SHONEY, 3d Truck Co., 305th Ammunition Train, Camp Lee, died at Camp Lee, January, 1918.

J. COLLINS VINCENT, Private, Co. A, 110th Inf., killed in action in France, Sept. 27, 1918.

DAVID C. VINCENT, killed in action.

FRED D. VOGUS, died of disease.

FREDERICK B. WILLYOUNG, 320th Inf., 80th Div., killed in action in France, July 30, 1918.

RAY WOODWORTH, reported killed, November, 1918.

CARL WALTERS, killed in action.

EDWARD L. ZUVER, died of wounds.

*Wounded—Franklin District*

ANDERSON, CHARLES W., Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in leg and in Hospital No. 44 in France; shot in shoulder Aug. 17, 1918, at Fismes, Vesle river.

AGNEW, GEORGE M., Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., severely wounded Aug. 8, 1918, returned to U. S. Dec. 18th.

ALEXANDER, JAMES S., slightly gassed, Aug., 1918.

ANDERSON, HAROLD P., reported missing; word received later that he had been wounded and was in hospital.

ATWELL, L. O., wounded.

ARMITAGE, G. C., missing in action.

BURNS, JAY JOSEPH, gassed.

BRADLEY, RICHARD, Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in action on battlefield in France, returned to Franklin Dec. 26th, 1918.

BRENNAN, LOUIS J., wounded October, 1918, France, officially reported Dec. 19th.

BROWN, RICHARD, Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., reported slightly wounded Nov. 4, 1918.

BROWN, JAMES A., wounded in France, last of August, 1918, two bullets entering near elbow; unofficially reported wounded again, Nov. 4, 1918.

BEERS, WILLIAM G., Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in France Aug. 9, 1918.

BROWN, RAYMOND A., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in France Oct. 3, 1918, twice, in back and shoulder.

BONER, JOSEPH A., shot seven times in arm on battlefield in France, October, 1918.

CAPWELL, SAMUEL PLUMER, Sergeant U. S. Marines, Hospital Unit No. 77, A. P. O. 909, Ward 18, A. E. F., employed at Liverpool, Ohio; left with Co. 39, U. S. Marines, from Detroit, Mich., June, 1917; seriously wounded in right hand Nov. 2, 1918, in attack on Meziers railroad; is in Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, Ward C, No. 2.

CHAPIN, HARRY J., Private, Battery B, 314th Field Artillery, wounded seriously on battlefield in France, October, 1918; Nov. 28th still in hospital, and at that time still obliged to lie on his stomach.

CRAWFORD, LLOYD, Captain, 307th M. G. Batt., 308th M. G. Batt., Co. D, A. E. F., wounded and in hospital Nov. 6, 1918; returned to front and seriously wounded Nov. 10th.

CLINEFELTER, JOSEPH C., on casualty list Dec. 11, 1918, wounded severely.

CONNELL, JOSEPH P., left Franklin as First Lieutenant Co. F, 112th Inf., later transferred to Co. L, and made Captain 112th Inf.; wounded on French battlefield first part of October, 1918; recovered; returned to Co. F as Captain since Nov. 11th.

COTTERMAN, WILLIAM A., Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., shot in shoulder, in France, August, 1918.

COFFMAN, FLOYD, Private, Co. F, wounded Oct. 11, 1918, reported Dec. 19th.

DUBEIL, THADDEUS, Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., gassed; news received Nov. 26, 1918.

DUNKLE, CHARLES, Corporal, Co. F, 112th Inf., hit by shrapnel in right shoulder and bones of arm splintered in action, Aug. 9, 1918, Fismette; sent to U. S. Dec. 1st; in Franklin on furlough Dec. 19th.

DORWORTH, HAROLD M., Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., reported to mother Oct. 19, 1918, that he was in hospital suffering from infected knee.

EATON, WILLIAM V., 45th Co., U. S. Marines, slightly injured June 13, 1918.

EMERY, WILLIAM E., Sergeant Co. F, 112th Inf., in hospital because of ear trouble, Nov. 26, 1918.

EARSMAN, WILLIS, wounded.

FERGUS, PAUL HAYS, Co. A, 112th Inf., gassed July 19-21, 1918, on battlefield in France.

FARREN, JOHN W., Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in hip, in France; sciatic nerve cut; non-combatant serving as first-aid man.

FISH, RAYMOND W., Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded right shoulder in Argonne drive, Sept. 26th to Oct. 8th, 1918.

GRAHAM, JOHN E., Sergeant, M. G. Co., 112th Inf., back injured by wall dugout collapsing, France.

GALBRAITH, CHARLES R., JR., Lieutenant Adjutant, 112th Inf., ill in hospital in France with influenza and rheumatism; arrived in U. S. A. Dec. 18, 1918.

GOODMAN, WILLIAM O., Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., transferred to Rainbow Division; slightly wounded.

GOSS, HARRY J., Private, Co. F, 112th Inf., slightly burned with gas in right leg, transferred last of October, 1918, to theatrical troupe.

GRIFFITH, EDWIN H., Corporal, Co. F, 112th Inf., slightly wounded in shoulder, Sept., 1918.

GRAMLEY, WILLIAM, wounded.

GRIBBEN, EDWARD C., Corporal Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded severely Nov. 4, 1918.

HILLIARD, ADLAI (Cook), wounded severely, casualty list Dec. 20, 1918.

HOFFMAN, ROY, wounded.

HAYS, CARL J., wounded.

HOLLOBAUGH, RAY, reported wounded in battle in France, casualty list Nov. 24, 1918.

HARVEY, FRANK C., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., shot in eyes Aug. 9, 1918; invalidated home Dec. 23d; Debarkation Hospital No. 3.

HOVIS, GEORGE W., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in hip, Argonne Forest drive, Sept. 26th-Oct. 8th, 1918; severely wounded, Dec. 9th.

HARVEY, CHARLES E., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., gassed in France July 15, 1918; still in

base hospital Aug. 20th, Co. G, 110th Reg. Inf.

HECKATHORN, LEO J., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., shell shock, Argonne, first drive; returned on hospital ship Dec. 17, 1918; arrived in Franklin Dec. 25th; left Dec. 28th for Camp Mead, Maryland.

KELSEY, NED A., Co. L, 320th Reg. Inf., slightly wounded; casualty list Dec. 26, 1918.

KARGOL, TONY, wounded, degree undetermined; casualty list Dec. 23, 1918.

KEAS, CLYDE A., reported seriously ill of pneumonia Oct. 3, 1918, at Camp Gordon.

KING, FRED, wounded.

LEQUI, SAMUEL, wounded.

LOWERS, CLARENCE H., wounded.

LUCAS, WILLIAM R., Sig. B, sub. C, 342, Signaller on mail steamer "Leinster," exhausted from exposure; sent to Langley Park, London, Norfolk, England.

LANDON, DON, British Forces in France; listed as missing.

LANKFORD, NEHEMIAH, Private, wounded, degree not determined; list Dec. 20, 1918.

MCKEE, GEORGE R., reported slightly wounded; list Dec. 14, 1918.

MCCUTCHEON, JESSE L., Co. L, 320th Inf., wounded in shoulder, not considered serious.

MCCANN, THOMAS P., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., in hospital with influenza; notice by letter Nov. 26, 1918.

McCoy, FREDERICK B., gassed.

MURDOCK, JOHN E., wounded.

MORRISON, CHARLES, wounded.

MONTGOMERY, HARRY O., wounded.

MIHLEDER, GUS., Reg. Army Officers' Training School, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., seriously wounded at Camp Mead; reported Sept. 4, 1918.

MORGAN, JOHN, Co. A, 1st Reg., Engineer Corps, enlisted in France 1917, slightly gassed; returned to company, and promoted to captain.

MUSGRAVE, NICHOLAS, Co. F, 112th Inf., made Top Sergeant, wounded in France, October, 1918.

MACK, EMIL F., Co. F, 112th Inf., in hospital, abscess on foot; news received Nov. 26, 1918.

MULHOLLAND, LEO B., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in France, machine gun bullet, Sept. 9, 1918.

PIERCE, CHARLES A., Corporal 312th M. G. Batt., wounded in France, September, 1918; recovering.

PASHLEY, EMIL F., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded on French battlefield Aug. 8, 1918, recovering quickly.

PALMER, W. J., Co. F, 112th Inf., seriously wounded in action in France, August, 1918, shot through kidneys; sent home by government; in U. S. General Hospital, Cape May, N. J., Ward 3.

PORTER, GEORGE V., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., shot in shoulder in France, August, 1918.

PERRINE, Ross E., Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in shoulder, in Forest drive, France, Sept. 26, 1918.

PHIPPS, CLIFFORD C., wounded.

PALMER, LEO W., wounded.

RUSSELL, HENRY C., on casualty list, Dec. 19, 1918, as missing.

Ross, GEORGE B., Corporal, Co. F, 112th Inf., gassed in July, 1918, on battlefield; last of August was still in hospital; Jan. 1st arrived at Newport News, Va.; has had to have several operations on nose.

RICALTON, ROBERT F., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in France, August, 1918, machine gun bullet.

RICHEY, JAMES C., Sergeant, Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in foot on battlefield in France, Sept. 28, 1918; recovering nicely.

RIDDLE, JAMES DANA, wounded.

SMITH, RALPH, wounded.

SICHI, LEOPOLDI, gassed.

SMITH, FRED F., wounded.

STARK, LAWRENCE, slightly wounded Dec. 9, 1918.

SERVICE, DAVID E., wounded in leg in France; reported improving; is gathering data regarding American soldiers' civil life for three years before the war.

SMALL, SAMUEL L., wounded, degree undetermined; list Dec. 20, 1918.

SILVERMAN, WILLIAM, Co. L, 28th Inf.; letter reports him wounded, but recovering.

SOUSA, MERLE F., Supply Co. Sergeant, M. G. Co., 112th Inf., slightly gassed; in hospital ten days.

SAUNIER, HAROLD P., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., shell shock, Argonne Forest drive, Sept. 26, 1918.

STALLSMITH, JAMES E., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., gassed in France, recovering quickly.

SULLIVAN, LAWRENCE J., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., slightly gassed in France, reported wounded, Aug. 5, 1918.

SMITH, ABE D., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., severely wounded in battle, in France, Aug. 13, 1918.

STROUSS, JAMES R., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., reported missing Aug. 22, 1918; Nov. 3d telegram announced him wounded and in hospital; garden service in quartermaster's department.

TINGLEY, HERBERT DONALD, Co. C, 4th Inf.,

wounded in head with shrapnel; in hospital almost all of October, 1918.

THOMPSON, DR. A. C., First Lieutenant Dr. Criles, Rouen, France, ill with pneumonia, October, 1918; Nov. 26th, letter received reported recovering.

WEED, JAMES E., slightly wounded in action in France.

WALLACE, GEORGE WILLIAM, wounded severely; casualty list Dec. 19, 1918.

WALLACE, GUY, wounded.

WINTERS, WALTER, wounded.

WHITE, DONALD L., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in hip July 4, 1918; sent back; located at Camp Merritt, New Jersey.

WHITESELL, CARL F., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., slightly wounded in battle; recovered.

WALDO, FRANK M., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., gassed, but was able to join company later.

WOLCOTT, WALTER S., Private Co. F, 112th Inf., wounded in right hip in Argonne Forest drive, Sept. 26, 1918.

YARNELL, WILLIAM G., wounded severely; list Dec. 9, 1918.

#### AT THE FRONT

That our Venango county boys measured up to our belief in them is proved indisputably. The 28th Division includes our 112th Regiment. In a "brief summary given by General Pershing of the operations of the American Expeditionary Forces from May 26, 1917, until the signing of the armistice, Nov. 11, 1918," he says:

"On the day after we had taken the St. Mihiel salient, much of our corps and army artillery which had operated at St. Mihiel, and our divisions in reserve at other points, were already on the move toward the area back of the line between the Meuse river and the western edge of the Forest of Argonne. With the exception of St. Mihiel, the old German front line from Switzerland to the east of Rheims was still intact.

"In the general attack all along the line, the operation assigned the American Army as the hinge of this Allied offensive was directed toward the important railroad communications of the German Armies through Mezieres and Sedan. The enemy must hold fast to this part of his lines or the withdrawal of his forces with four years' accumulation of plants and material would be dangerously imperiled.

"The Germany Army had as yet shown no demoralization and, while the mass of its troops had suffered in morale, its first-class divisions and notably its machine-gun defense

were exhibiting remarkable tactical efficiency as well as courage. The German General Staff was fully aware of the consequences of a success on the Meuse-Argonne line. Certain that he would do everything in his power to oppose us, the action was planned with as much secrecy as possible and was undertaken with the determination to use all our divisions in forcing decision. We expected to draw the best German divisions to our front and to consume them while the enemy was held under grave apprehension lest our attack should break his line, which it was our firm purpose to do.

"Our right flank was protected by the Meuse, while our left embraced the Argonne Forest whose ravines, hills, and elaborate defense screened by dense thickets had been generally considered impregnable. Our order of battle from right to left was the 3d Corps from the Meuse to Malancourt, with the 33d, 80th and 4th Divisions in line, and the 3d Division as corps reserve; the 5th Corps from Malancourt to Vauquois, with 79th, 87th and 91st Divisions in line, and the 32d in corps reserve; and the 1st Corps, from Vauquois to Vienne le Chateau, with 35th, 28th and 77th Divisions in line, and the 92d in corps reserve. The army reserve consisted of the 1st, 29th and 82d Divisions.

"On the 24th, after the Germans had fallen back from Trugny and Epieds, our 42d Division, which had been brought over from the Champagne, relieved the 26th and, fighting its way through the Foret de Fere, overwhelmed the nests of machine guns in its path. By the 27th it had reached the Ourcq, whence the 3d and 4th Divisions were already advancing, while the French divisions with which we were co-operating were moving forward at other points.

"The 3d Division had made its advance into Roncheres Wood on the 29th and was relieved for rest by a brigade of the 32d. The 42d and 32d undertook the task of conquering the heights beyond Cierges, the 42d capturing Sergy and the 32d capturing Hill 230, both American divisions joining in the pursuit of the enemy to the Vesle, and thus the operation of reducing the salient was finished. Meanwhile the 42d was relieved by the 4th at Chery-Chartreuve, and the 32d by the 28th, while the 32d Division took up a position on the Vesle. The operations of these divisions on the Vesle were under the 3d Corps, Maj. Gen. Robert L. Bullard commanding.

"With the reduction of the Marne salient we could look forward to the concentration of our divisions in our own zone. In view of the forthcoming operation against the St. Mihiel

salient, which had long been planned as our first offensive action on a large scale, the 1st Army was organized on Aug. 10 under my personal command. While American units had held different divisional and corps sectors along the western front, there had not been up to this time, for obvious reasons, a distinct American sector; but, in view of the important parts the American forces were now to play, they were assigned to an important sector of the line.

"Our large caliber guns had advanced and were skilfully brought into position to fire upon the important lines of Montmedy, Longuyon and Conflans. Our 3d Corps crossed the Meuse on the 5th and the other corps, in the full confidence that the day was theirs, eagerly cleared the way of machine guns as they swept northward, maintaining complete co-ordination throughout. On the 6th a division of the 1st Corps reached a point on the Meuse opposite Sedan, twenty-five miles from our line of departure. *The strategical goal which was our highest hope was gained. We had cut the enemy's main line of communications, and nothing but surrender could save his army from complete disaster.*

"In all forty enemy divisions had been used against us in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Between Sept. 26 and Nov. 6 we took 26,059 prisoners and 468 guns on this front. Our divisions engaged were the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th, 26th, 28th, 29th, 32d, 33d, 35th, 37th, 42d, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 82d, 89th, 90th and 91st.

"Many of our divisions remained in line for a length of time that required nerves of steel, while others were sent up again after only a few days of rest.

"Finally, I pay the supreme tribute to our officers and soldiers of the line. When I think of their heroism, their patience under hardships, their unflinching spirit of offensive action, I am filled with emotion which I am unable to express. Their deeds are immortal, and they have earned the eternal gratitude of our country."

#### PENNSYLVANIA RESERVE MILITIA

The United States government authorized the States to organize systems of militia. In Pennsylvania the organization is called the Pennsylvania Reserve Militia. Company L, 3d Infantry, P. R. M., consists of seventy-five men, divided about equally between Franklin and Oil City. The following is a list of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the company: Capt. Ralph P. Byles, Oil

City; First Lieut. Harley G. Zeigler, Franklin; Second Lieut. Walter S. Borland, Oil City; Second Lieut. Ronald B. Crawford, Staff Officer, Oil City; First Sergeant Norman G. Wood, Franklin; Q. M. Sergeant Marshall Gault, Oil City; Mess Sergeant Ed. W. Wallace, Oil City; Sergeant John Moltz, Oil City; Sergeant Andrew Shaffer, Oil City; Sergeant Frank Musgrave, Franklin; Sergeant Earl S. Maxwell, Franklin; Sergeant Frank Burchfield, Franklin; Corporal George W. Darr, Oil City; Corporal William Daugherty, Oil City; Corporal John E. Cunningham, Oil City; Corporal John D. Babbet, Oil City; Corporal George Anderson, Franklin; Corporal Donald Ferringer, Franklin; Corporal Joseph Dilley; Corporal Walter Krepp, Franklin; Cooks William Long, Oil City, Robert Spence, Oil City; Musician Charles H. Stickle.

The company is uniformed and well equipped. It meets in the Armory once a week. It is a fine body of men and is a credit to the two cities which contribute the personnel. The officers and men are equally earnest and enthusiastic. They evidently realize the importance of their organization and the part it may play in the life of the nation in the future.

#### AMERICAN RED CROSS

The Red Cross has always had a strong appeal in Venango county. A region notable for generosity and lavish giving to all worthy humanitarian efforts, it welcomed this universal association of helpers. When times came of quiet and lack of broad demands, it kept its organization intact and was ready whenever occasion offered opportunity for service. Always alert and always responding to needs, both local and international, it was ideal in its operations when the great world war became a terrible reality. Both Franklin and Oil City increased membership in the organization and work began. After committees were appointed, rooms engaged and workers giving splendidly of brain and brawn, it was seen that the work of establishing auxiliaries in the small towns was essential to the complete working out of the Red Cross idea. Women in the larger towns put aside all home work that could be dropped safely and went about telling the story of the needs of this organization. The response was so full and beautiful that a bond never to be broken binds these women together. As the boys began to leave home the knitters had to put away thoughts of the long road the feet would tread in the soft smooth

socks; and the makers of surgical dressings had to occupy themselves with the delicate and essential tasks in order not to think too much of the destination of the wonderful packages so deftly and scientifically made. All kept at work with an energy and an absolutely unfailing loyalty to duty and to the finest human endeavor. If it were possible to give a complete story of the activity of any one of the chapters of the Red Cross in this county, it would of course be simply one with that of every other American patriotic county. But those who looked on from a masculine point of view wondered at the assiduity and the perseverance and the never-failing head and hand work of these women. Miss Olivia Fisher is at the head of the Red Cross chapter in Oil City and Miss Myra Chickering at the head of the Home Service Section. In Franklin Miss Gertrude Adams is at the head of the Red Cross chapter and Mrs. F. B. Black at the head of the Home Service Section. The Daughters of the American Revolution took as their distinctive service in this connection the forming of Red Cross circles throughout the county. Nearly every neighborhood has one of these auxiliaries, all working through the Oil City or Franklin chapters.

A number of local women were enlisted in the active forces of the Red Cross, either as nurses or canteen workers, and many of these saw service in France.

As shown by figures made public for the first time by local officials of the Red Cross after the signing of the armistice, the Oil City chapter for the year ending on Oct. 31st had completed by local Red Cross workers a total of 193,875 garments. Of this number 147,200 were surgical dressings, 33,057 were hospital garments, and 13,116 knitted garments.

In addition to the work of these organizations the women of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the wives, mothers, and daughters of railroad men, formed organizations that did wonderful work for men in service, whether they were in the railroad work as civil engineers, engineers or common soldiers. It was the aim that not one should need the comforts women alone could provide. The organization under the inspiring leadership of Mrs. J. J. Rhoads continues some branches of this work, since many of the men abroad are moving into colder regions. Splendid stories of heroic endeavor are told of these men, whose motto seems to have been that of other railroad men in France, "It is impossible to do it—Here it is."

#### OTHER WAR ACTIVITIES

Mention must be made of the splendid work for the Liberty Loans. Venango county went over the top each time. It went with a rush, and with enthusiasm that is characteristic of people who always rise to the occasion. The women responded to this new and urgent appeal for their country's need with ability that won instant recognition. Mrs. J. C. Carmichael of Franklin and Mrs. E. V. D. Selden of Oil City led the hosts of workers. This seemed to include every woman in the county.

Venango county has also exceeded its quota of one hundred and fifty fatherless children of France by forty-one, and is still reaching out toward others. Each day new names are sent in of those who desire to care for these innocent victims of war. Oil City has the distinction of having adopted almost double the number asked from it.

#### AS FRIEND TO FRIEND

We may close this chapter appropriately with a letter from Col. George C. Rickards, commanding the 112th U. S. Infantry, written to his friend Mr. Robert Moore, of Oil City, in response to a letter of congratulation:

France, Dec. 1, 1918.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I acknowledge your letter of some time ago. I do not remember if I have answered it or not, and if I have it will do no harm to write again. I recall that your letter was received while I was on the front line with my command. I was in that position the last twenty-eight days of the war and we had quite an experience. The officers and men all performed remarkably good work there and added to their reputation of fighters and "prisoner getters." During those twenty-eight days we made a number of raids and assaults on the enemy's positions; we captured more than two hundred prisoners, killed a large number of them, don't know how many, advanced our position about one kilometer, and destroyed much of the enemy's works that were of no use to us.

We had a few men killed and a number wounded during this time.

The last three hours of the war was a thing never to be forgotten by any who took part in it. I estimate that in that time over three thousand shells fell in my own area, many of them 155 mm. (six-inch) and a few 210 mm. (eight-inch), but strange to say I had no one seriously injured from them.

The last shot I heard fired from our side was at two seconds of 11 o'clock, and the last one from the Germans was a "dud," one that did not explode, at just 11 o'clock. I am most mighty glad that the last one was a dud, for had it not been your old friend G. C. R. would not be writing his good friend, Robert Moore, this day, or any other day, and so it has been with me all through the game. I have been

hit four times, but never enough to put me out of the fight, or even to dampen my fires. I have had many close calls and now when I look back over the past wonder why any of us came through with our lives.

We are all going to get home before long, and then I will tell you a lot about it that takes more time to write than I have at my disposal, for I am

still about as busy with the business of the regiment as during the fighting days.

It was mighty good of you to write me, and I appreciate it much more than I can express.

Please remember me to Mrs. Moore, and believe me as ever,

Your friend,  
GEO. C. RICKARDS.

## CHAPTER XXII

### OIL CITY—FRANKLIN—EMLENTON

- I. OIL CITY—EARLY SETTLEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT—BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT—PROFESSIONS AND TRADES—LAYING OUT THE TOWN—ORGANIZATION—OFFICIALS—POPULATION—FERRIES AND BRIDGES—ELECTRIC ROADS—DISASTERS BY FIRE AND WATER—FIRE DEPARTMENT—POLICE DEPARTMENT—WATER WORKS—CITY LIGHTING—CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—CITY BUILDING—OTHER BUILDINGS—HOTELS—HOSPITAL—TRANSPORTATION OF OIL IN 1864—CEMETERIES.
- II. FRANKLIN—PERIOD OF EARLY POSSESSION—GEORGE POWER—THE TOWN ESTABLISHED—EARLY RESIDENTS—PIONEER MERCHANTS—THE EARLY MECHANICS—EARLY PRICES OF COMMODITIES—HOTELS—EARLY ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN—FRANKLIN IN 1837—FRANKLIN IN 1850—RATE OF GROWTH IN POPULATION—BOROUGH ORGANIZATION—BOROUGH OFFICIALS—CITY ORGANIZATION AND OFFICIALS—CITY COMMISSION—CITY OFFICERS—LIBRARY—CEMETERIES—BOARD OF TRADE—FRANKLIN HOSPITAL—LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS.
- III. EMLENTON BOROUGH—FIRST RESIDENTS—EARLY MERCHANTS—THE IRON INDUSTRY—HOTELS—EMLENTON BRIDGE—THE EMLENTON AND SHIPPENVILLE RAILROAD—WATER SUPPLY—FIRE PROTECTION—CITY HALL—INCORPORATION—BOROUGH OFFICIALS—PRESENT CONDITIONS

#### I. OIL CITY

If history must be written with imagination it must also be read by the light of that faculty of mind. To sketch Oil City it is necessary to picture the silent hills reaching above, their stony tops in living forms, green creeping vines, flowering shrubs, interlacing branches of trees. Below these wooded heights flowed the creek with its oil-bearing waters, soon to be mingled with the river. In lonely places there was no life save that of little scurrying creatures and of the beasts of prey haunting the thickets. This condition of the region now called Oil City appears as only fleeting, almost unreal. But this was the real place, waiting unchanged for thousands of years before the Indians came, before any of earth's history was written.

The first settlers here were the Indians. When they came is not known. They can not tell. They can not tell who dug the oil pits or who lived in the villages whose remains are scattered in this vicinity. This is not strange among a people who possessed no written records and whose traditions dealt

more with imaginary race beginnings than with their actual life. If the truth is ever known regarding these pits and other remains it will be discovered by the archeologists who solved the mystery of the mounds. The most reasonable conclusion is that these remains were left by the progenitors of the Indians themselves, either of the Seneca or the Cat tribe, which dwelt north of Lake Erie and were absorbed by the Senecas. Like all nations without records they were ignorant of their history of a century or two back. This conclusion is strengthened by the fact that the Indians came here from a time beyond which their memory did not extend. The Senecas lived here for several generations and gathered the oil from the pits and from the springs, which they used for medicine, and mixed with pigments for the adornment of their bodies in their festal and their diabolical rites.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

The first white settler of the township, coming up the creek in 1796, found an Indian village at its mouth. He did not stop here, but

went to the headwaters of Cherry run, where he remained permanently and where he told his experiences to the later comers. These are given in other parts of this volume.

The honor of being the first settler on the west side of Oil Creek belongs to an unknown squatter who located about four hundred acres and made some improvements. Francis and Sarah Halyday purchased his claim in 1803. A few years later Halyday built a home on the west bank and slightly above the mouth of Oil creek. It was here, Jan. 13, 1809, that his son James was born—the first white child born on the site of Oil City. James was two years old when his father died and he grew up among the coppery youngsters who dwelt across the creek. By the time the Crarys were well into their decade (see below) he was a young married man. His mother died in 1844, and he sold portions of this tract to Dr. John Nevins, Arnold Plumer, a Mr. Drum, and some others. The Michigan Oil Company secured the principal part of it, now known as the Third ward, in February, 1860.

On the east side Cornplanter owned a large tract of land which was a part of the gift made to him by the State of Pennsylvania, by act of Assembly March, 1796, for services rendered just after the Revolutionary war. He retained this until May 29, 1818, when he sold it to William Connely, of Venango county, and William Kinnear, of Center county, for the sum of twenty-one hundred and twenty-one dollars. Connely resold his half to Cornplanter in October of the same year, and by a suit for debt thus created it was sold at sheriff's sale Nov. 22, 1819, to Alexander McCalmont, of Franklin. In 1824 this half was resold to Matthias Stockberger. On June 25th, same year, Stockberger, Kinnear and Richard Noyes erected an iron furnace, foundry and mill, with houses, steamboat landings and warehouses, on the east side of the mouth of Oil creek. This was the first settlement at that point. The furnace was closed in 1844. In 1825 Frederick and Wm. Crary became partners, and in September of this year they absorbed the whole business, which they carried on successfully for ten years. In 1856 the Bell heirs sold the furnace tract to Graff, Hasson & Co. Capt. William Hasson and his father James and family located on the flats, a part of the thousand acres that had been purchased for seven thousand dollars. In 1864 three hundred acres of this were sold to the Petroleum Farms Association for seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

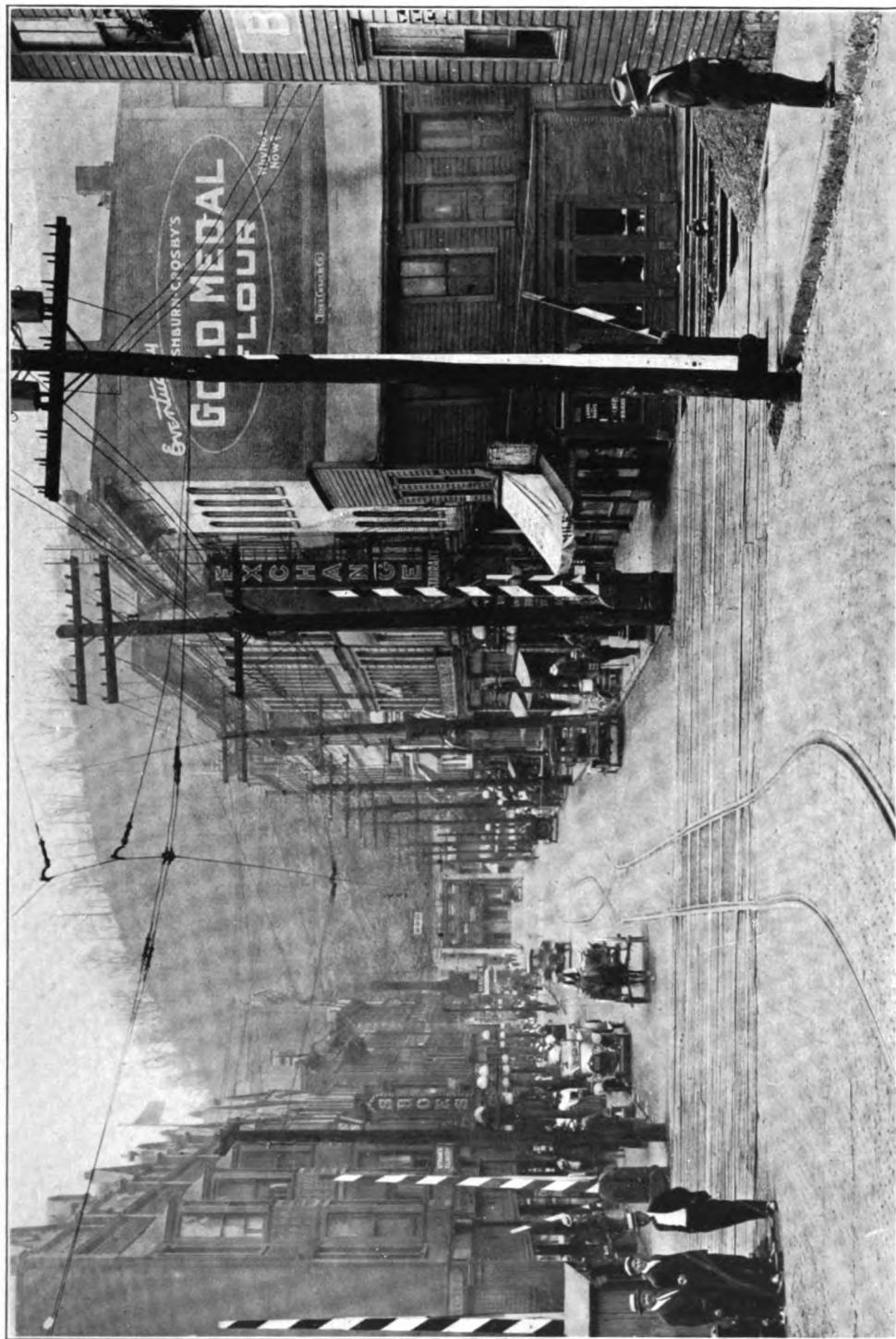
During the fourteen years' operations of the

Bells at the iron furnace, the south side remained for the most part unimproved. The larger portion of it was secured by Benjamin Thompson, who made the first conveyance of eighteen acres to Columbus Carl June 4, 1849. In 1841 James Hollis entered two hundred acres beginning near Short street, above Thompson's tract. In 1850 Hollis sold eighty acres adjoining Thompson's to Thomas G. Downing, and in 1853 bought out Thompson's and sold on April 25th to Henry Bastian, who farmed it for ten years. In 1863 Bastian sold out to William L. Lay, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and on the following year James Bleakley of Franklin bought out Downing, Hollis and one hundred and twenty acres of Lay, paying forty-eight one thousand dollar bills. Before this Phillips and VanAusdall had struck here a thirty-five-barrel well in April, 1861, and Mr. Lay had laid out his farm in town lots under the name of Laytonia. When these parties sold in 1865 purchasers laid out a town plant and named it Imperial.

#### BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

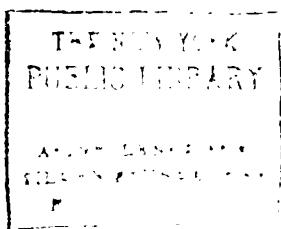
One of the first stores was kept by James Young in connection with the furnace business. Mr. Young continued in business after the Bells had closed their furnace and had left the old Bell house. The Bannons and the Halydays had small houses on the west side, the first near the old "Moran House," and the latter near the mouth of Oil creek. The raftsmen, when they had occasion to tie up, stopped at these houses. Thomas Moran built an inn near the Bannons'. This was a land mark for many years.

Samuel Hopewell opened an inn and in the autumn of 1852 John P. Hopewell of Pittsburgh brought up a boatload of stock and opened a store and inn on the corner of Main and Ferry streets. Near him was located Barrett Alger, and about the same time Hiram Gordon opened a public house called the "Red Lion." During the next ten years the population increased slowly. Hugh McClintock and Squire J. S. Hooton came. David D. Dickey built and opened a tavern, the "Petroleum House," which afterward became widely known. From its balcony many aspiring orators held forth. The most distinguished speaker was undoubtedly Ulysses S. Grant, president of the United States. This hotel was destroyed by fire in 1892; so complete was its destruction that not one trace of timber was left in evidence. If its old registers could have been preserved they would be invaluable

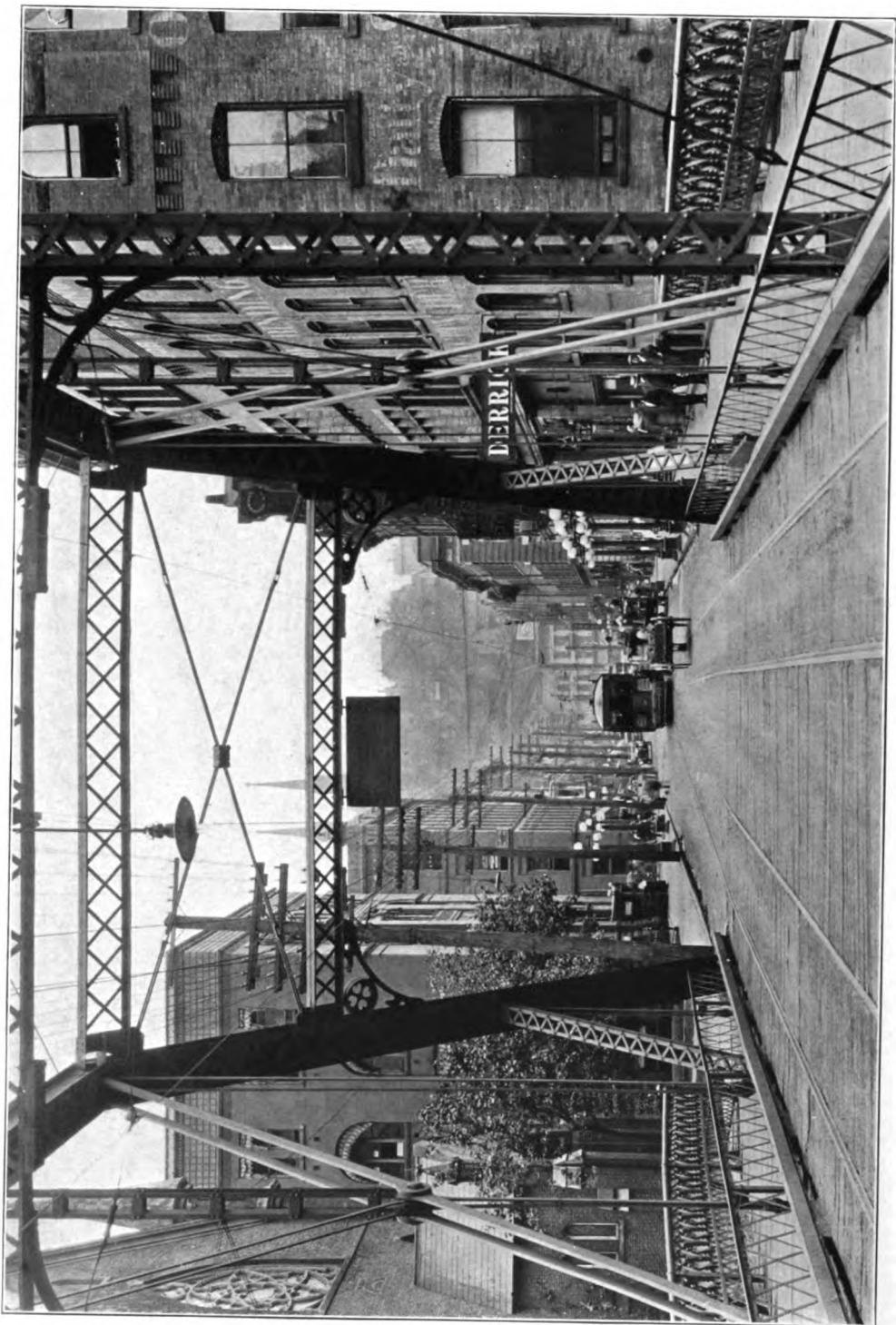


Oil City, Pennsylvania, July, 1918

Center Street, Looking West From Spring and Plumer Streets. Also Showing "Hoggback" in the Distance







Oil City, Pennsylvania, July, 1918  
Center Street, Looking East From Oil Creek Bridge

now to the autograph hunter. Many distinguished men and women had written their names upon those pages, actors and actresses well known to fame were there. One autograph almost priceless to-day would have been found, that of Artemus Ward (Charles F. Browne), among others of note.

#### PROFESSIONS AND TRADES

About 1850 a stranger called upon the Bannons, stating that he was a physician, with health seriously impaired, seeking a cure in the wilderness. He was made welcome. The next day he was called to treat Mrs. Halyday. His success and the importunities of his first patient and her friends induced him to settle, and thus the little hamlet acquired its first resident doctor. Soon afterward Samuel Thomas, blacksmith and toolmaker, was the first of his craft to settle here.

The oil men coming to Oil City in 1860 found here less than a dozen families. This condition, however, soon changed. Numbers came in to take part in the life of the town. Among them were J. B. Reynolds, of Callensburg, Pa., and Mr. McCombs, of Pittsburgh, who opened the first store. Other merchants were Calvin and William J., brothers of Mr. Reynolds, who were afterwards associated with him, and, later still, T. H. and W. M. Williams. McFarland Brothers, of Meadville, opened a store on the west side of which Fid Bishop was manager. Hasson & Co. also opened a store, on the east side. W. M. Williams built the first brick block in the town.

Other active residents were D. F. Clark, C. C. Waldo, Dr. M. L. Boggs, Mr. Kelsey and Mr. Andrews, of the Michigan Rock Oil Company, who sold and rapidly built up the west side; Peter Graff, the Hassons, Robert Sproul, owners of the east side; and W. L. Lay, Charles Lee, Mr. Downing and others, owners of the south side, which did not build up till later.

Drs. L. Porterfield, M. M. Hulings and S. S. Christy were among the early physicians; of them, Dr. Christy was the first druggist. Among the first carpenters and builders were: Messrs. Hill and Drewatt. L. D. Kellogg was the first printer, and in 1866 made the first city directory. The first resident lawyer was Charles F. Hasson, son of James Hasson: he was admitted to the bar of Venango county Aug. 31, 1861, and probably located at Oil City soon thereafter. He has been followed by

a line of worthy successors, to the present hour.

#### LAYING OUT THE TOWN

The excitement of 1859-60 led the Michigan Oil Company to lay out lots on the west side, along a street they called Main. So remarkable was the growth that in the spring of 1863 Charles Haines and Joseph Marston purchased of Graff, Hasson & Company what is now known as Grove avenue, laid it out in lots and erected cottages, and gave it the name of Cottage Hill, which it still retains. During this year occasional lots were bought on the east side, and business lots were in so great demand that in the spring of 1864 the Petroleum Farms Association laid out its three hundred acres in lots, and before the year closed the population on both sides of the river was six thousand. In 1866 the three towns on the south side of the river, Imperial, Laytonia and Leetown, upon petition of their citizens, were united into one town by Judge Trunkey and named Venango City.

The platting of the city was begun in 1869 by W. R. Stevenson, and lasted three years, the chief additions being the upper and lower ends of the south side, Palace Hill and parts of upper Cottage Hill.

#### ORGANIZATION

Oil City (north side) became a borough in 1862. The first Burgess was William Hasson. Of Venango City, the first Burgess was James Shoemaker. The union of these two boroughs was accomplished by act of legislature approved March 3, 1871; the incorporation was completed April 11th. Like many other Pennsylvania cities, Oil City replaced her old charter, 1881, by organization under the Wallace act.

The city at first was divided into six wards, three on each side of the river, later into nine wards, five on the north side and four on the south side of the river; later, in 1911, Siverly was joined to the city as the Tenth ward, making six north of the river. In 1916 West End borough was joined to the Fourth ward.

#### OFFICIALS

The city government from the time of its incorporation to the year 1911 was administered by a mayor, elected triennially, by popular vote; and by a common and select council, whose members, two for the first body and

one for the second, were elected by each ward. In 1911 the commission form of government was adopted. Once in four years five commissioners are elected, who appoint one of their number mayor. The other city officials are also chosen by this commission.

The mayors of the city have served as follows, according to the *Derrick* directory, 1918, of Venango county:

- 1871—W. M. Williams.
- 1872-73—Isaac M. Sowers.
- 1874-75—William B. Foster.
- 1876-77—Joseph M. McElroy.
- 1878-80—Hiram D. Hancock.
- 1880-82—John H. Oberly.
- 1882-84—Col. A. J. Greenfield.
- 1884-86—Daniel Fisher.
- 1886-88—Thomas R. Cowell.
- 1888-90—John H. Payne.
- 1890-93—William G. Hunt.
- 1893-96—Amos Steffee.
- 1896-99—James A. Fawcett.
- 1899-1902—John M. Reed.
- 1902-05—James Hasson.
- 1905-08—Abel L. Confer.
- 1908-11—B. H. Carnahan.
- 1911-15—J. B. Siggins.
- 1915—Hon. William Agnew.

The present mayor was chosen for the four-years term.

#### POPULATION

The population of Oil City in 1860 was about twelve families, some fifty people; the estimated population in 1865, on both sides of the river, was 6,000; the United States Census for 1890 shows 10,932; 1900, 13,264; 1910, 15,657; according to the *Derrick* Directory, the actual count of residents occupying houses within the city, after the addition of West End and Siverly boroughs, 1918, gave 22,127.

The growth from fifty or sixty in 1860 to 22,127 fifty-eight years later is certainly remarkable. The town and its industries, and the number and character of its buildings, are improving at a more rapid rate at the beginning of 1919 than ever before.

#### FERRIES AND BRIDGES—ELECTRIC ROADS

During the operation of the Bell or Oil Creek iron furnace, the only method of crossing the Allegheny was by means of a rough flatboat. Soon after the Drake well began producing, a rope ferry charter was secured by ex-Sheriff Thomas, of Franklin, which he sold shortly afterward to Henry Bastian, who

built a boat large enough to carry a loaded wagon and team. He stretched one thousand feet of three-quarter-inch wire across the Allegheny, sixty feet above the water. This was well patronized, the receipts frequently running as high as forty dollars a day. Mr. William L. Lay purchased Bastian's farm in 1863, including the ferry, which he enlarged, also improving its approaches. About the same time, Phillips and others conducted a ferry at the upper end of South Oil City. The Halyday boys had a ferry across Oil creek in the early days, and ran it till in the forties.

The first county bridge, a single-track wooden structure, at the foot of Center street, was built in the early fifties. It was carried away by the great flood of March 17, 1865, and was replaced by a single-span combination wrought iron arch and truss, 180 feet by 40, with double track and footway. This was opened to the public July 27, 1866. Its total cost was sixty-five thousand dollars. Toll was charged till 1870, when it was purchased by the county and made free. A few years later, this bridge was taken down and replaced by a lighter but stronger steel structure, because it was not thought safe under the strain of the large street cars, heavily loaded, which passed over it frequently on their way to and from the park and Franklin. The first railway bridge was built by the Atlantic & Great Western Railway Company at the mouth of Oil creek in 1866. The first locomotive to cross the creek was run upon a track supported by the ice, from the west to the east side, where it was used upon the Oil creek road. The Allegheny Valley railway bridge, built of wood, 1869, has since been replaced by an iron structure. The first W., N. Y. & P. bridge was built in 1870. It has been burned several times, the last time in 1892, when it was replaced by the iron structure still in use. The county bridge at the head of Seneca street was built of wood in 1877, and in 1883, was rebuilt of iron.

The Oil City Petroleum Bridge Company was incorporated May 16, 1864, when the following officers were elected: William L. Lay, president; S. Stevenson, secretary; A. S. Pool, treasurer. The capital stock was \$100,000. The bridge was opened as a toll bridge in 1866. It was purchased by the county and replaced by the present fine three-span iron structure, in 1909-11.

The Venango Bridge Company, J. J. Vandergrift, president; Fid Bishop, secretary; and John Mawhinney, treasurer, was organized in 1873. A suspension bridge was built in the

Third ward crossing the river, and began taking tolls in 1876. The county purchased it in 1903-04. It is still in good condition.

The toll bridges built by the capital and enterprise of residents of the town so soon after Drake's drill had put Oil City on the map, at a time when the county or the city was not ready for such an undertaking, certainly speak strongly for the business foresight of the gentlemen concerned in their erection, and of their faith in the city's future.

The third highway bridge across the river was built in 1893 by Mr. J. B. Smithman, a resident of the city, principally for the use of the Oil City Street Railway Company, which he had chartered in 1889. It was named the Relief Bridge, and was a steel through truss structure, with two railway tracks on it and a covered sidewalk, and connected Main street and Central avenue. The tolls for crossing it were one third of previous rates, and Mr. Smithman announced that as soon as one half its cost were realized in any way it would be made a free bridge. On Aug. 29, 1900, he sold the bridge to the county at one half its cost to be made a free bridge. In 1902 the Suspension bridge was sold to the county, and in 1903 the Petroleum bridge was sold to the county—to be made free bridges.

In 1890 Mr. Smithman secured from the city councils an ordinance to operate a Street Railway in Oil City by electric power, which then was a new motive power and destined to revolutionize street railway construction. The railway and bridge were constructed during the depressed times of 1892 and 1893, caused by the disastrous fire in Oil City in June, 1892, and the great panic one year later. The first street cars were run from the east end of Main street, over the new bridge, up Central avenue and to the end of West First street, on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 30, 1893. The electric motors were a pronounced success, and this, with the prospect of an end to bridge tolls in the near future, marked a new epoch in the history of Oil City. A feeling of permanency became evident. Property along West First street doubled in value in a year. Street railways were soon introduced in Warren, Franklin, Meadville, Titusville, and elsewhere, to be run by the new power. Under Mr. Smithman's ownership and management the railway was extended up Cottage Hill on Spring, Graff, Harriot, Bissell, Hoffman and Smithman streets to Carroll avenue, near the Oil City hospital; up Seneca street; over East Second street to Sage Run, in the Sixth ward; and westward on West First street, and up

Deep Hollow through charming forests, to Smithman Park, a resort founded by him on land purchased by him, midway between Oil City and Franklin. Nature seems to have formed this spot for rest and recreation. A hundred years ago hunters called this stream or run to the river "Seven Lick Run"—referring to the deer licks or places where deer sought the mineral waters and were shot by hunters from hidden huts in the bushes or trees. Springs are abundant, some of pure cool water, others mineral springs, differing in contents of magnesia, iron, carbonate of soda, chloride of sodium and potassium; shade and turf are abundant, and from the start the place was crowded and was a popular resort for picnics and assemblies that formerly had gone to distant places at large expense. In 1899 and 1900 he extended the road from the Park down Van Buren Run toward Franklin, to go over a bridge the erection of which he had commenced over the Allegheny river into Franklin at Third street to connect with the tracks of the Franklin street railway chartered in 1894, or to run on tracks to be laid on streets under an ordinance granted him by the Franklin city council in 1900.

In 1900 a second electric street railway company was organized in Oil City, called the Citizens Traction Company, of which D. J. Geary was president, William Hasson vice president and William Filson secretary. It laid tracks from the U. P. Church up Pearl avenue to the newly built Fair Grounds east of the city; and on South Seneca street over the Petroleum bridge, State street and West Third street to Mitchell avenue; and in the same year purchased the Franklin street railway; erected a bridge from West End borough over the river to Reno, and laid tracks thence to Rocky Grove and Franklin; and being blocked in its efforts in the courts to compel the Oil City Street Railway Company to grant it the use of twenty-five hundred feet of the Smithman road to connect its own tracks on Pearl avenue to its tracks on South Seneca street, the new company on Jan. 14, 1901, purchased from Mr. Smithman all his street railway holdings, which included all the stock of the Oil City Street Railway Company; the Oil City Station Railway Company, which was chartered to construct the road from Oil City to Franklin via Smithman Park, and his street railway franchises in Franklin; and also bought the Big Rock bridge, and consolidated the two systems, making a trolley route from Franklin via Smithman Park to Oil City, which has been and is an important factor in the

development of the two cities. The new company also bought the surface of sixty acres of the Park lands, including the springs, large auditorium, restaurant, pavilions, and other amusement features, with certain reservations, and changed the name to Monarch Park. It also extended the railway to Rouseville, and to Siverlyville. In 1910 practically all the stock of the new company passed into new hands. Mr. Joseph Seep was made president; the power plant was enlarged, furnishing electric current for motors industrially; the railway route from Reno to Rocky Grove was abandoned. The properties are now owned and operated by the Municipal Service Company of New York.

#### DISASTERS BY FIRE AND WATER

Oil City has suffered more from fire and flood than from the common misfortunes of other cities, such as riots, panics and epidemics. The ice gorge of Dec. 7, 1862, was occasioned by the low water in the river, which caused a gorge of loaded oil boats, filling the eddy or river front. About two hundred boats were frozen fast in the ice when a heavy ice dam up the creek broke and came down with great force. The loss was fully sixty thousand barrels of oil, having a value of five hundred thousand dollars.

The oil fleet fire, Dec. 12, 1863, afforded a grand spectacle of burning oil and boats. Most of the fleet was saved, after a loss of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

On May 31, 1864, about thirty thousand barrels of oil were lost by oil boats becoming jammed and crushed in the narrow creek during a pond freshet. The price of oil here was then seven dollars a barrel. During these three years there was also a loss of a number of buildings by fire.

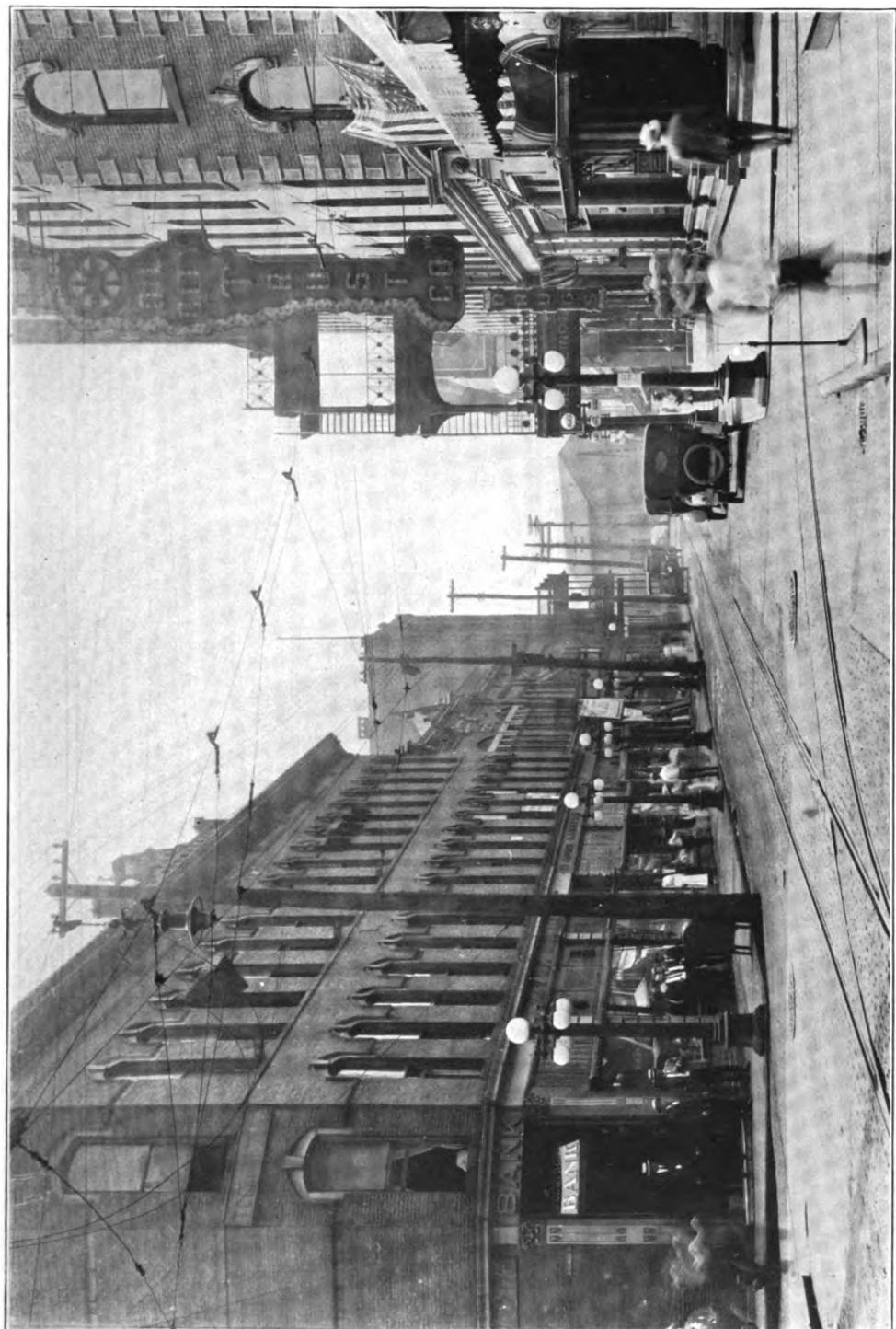
The greatest flood ever known in Oil City was that of St. Patrick's Day in 1865. The full force of the river and creek swept clean the oil yards of the Third ward and the east side was flooded. The loss was estimated at five million dollars.

The flood of April, 1866, destroyed a number of houses on the east side. Many boats, ten thousand barrels of oil, and nine lives were lost. On May 26, 1866, a building used as a laundry caught fire, which extending to the dry buildings was soon beyond control. The principal business center of the town was burned over, with a loss of fully one million dollars.

In 1873 and 1883 there were destructive

floods, and in 1885 an ice gorge which did much damage, but neither were so disastrous as the preceding ones.

The fire and flood of 1892 occurred on Sunday, June 5th. This was the most destructive fire and most disastrous flood that have ever occurred here. A heavy rainstorm had raised the creek to an unusual height on Saturday night, carrying away the Spartansburg dam. The flood from this came through Titusville. Tanks of oil, distillate and naphtha were upset into the stream. A portion of Titusville was flooded and great damage was done. The wreckage came down Oil creek on a high wave of water from the dam. The banks overflowed and undermined tanks of oil, and one holding thirty thousand barrels of naphtha, on the Clapp Farm. The contents of these, added to that already floating on the water, created a sinister condition. This volatile liquid was carried on the flood down the creek along upper Seneca street, where the houses were then flooded to the second story, down under the railroad bridge and into the river. The gas arising from the naphtha and oil permeated the houses and buildings for a mile. Seneca street was by this time a rushing river. At least five thousand people were gathered on the hillsides and along the river front looking with interest at the strange spectacle. The odors that came to them had an intoxicating effect and the crowds began to fall back as fear dawned upon them. The air was filled with a yellowish vapor which gave an uncanny cast to every object. Suddenly there was a flash and a loud detonation was heard up the creek. This was closely followed by two others. Instantly fire appeared everywhere, from a point above the railroad bridge, along Seneca street, and below the mouth of the creek along the entire Third ward front, to a point below the Suspension bridge. Flames mounted higher than Clark's Summit and above them smoke in great waves and billows blackened the air and added terror to the scene. This fire was not like any other. It did not run from house to house, one building kindling the next. The first explosion lighted a half mile of fire above the creek bridge and in the houses on the banks. The second explosion set all Seneca street on fire, on both banks of the creek down to the tube mills, instantly, the gas inside igniting with that outside. The third flash ran through the Third ward. Buildings filled with a mixture of gas and air literally exploded. They disappeared while one gazed awestruck at them. This was the case with Paul's large furniture store and the "Bellevue House" and



Oil City, Pennsylvania, July, 1918  
Seneca Street, Looking South From Sycamore Street



barns. Nearly seventy-five houses were burned. Many of the inmates reached places of safety by means of boats; heroic endeavors were made to rescue them. A few escaped by swimming. Of a number in the second stories who were seen to leap into the water to avoid the flames, some were drowned, including several of the rescuers. The number of those lost by the flood and fire has been estimated at over sixty, including some of the rescuers. Some twenty buildings below Paul's furniture store, including the "Petroleum House," were burned. Below the "Petroleum House" the flames swept in by the current of the river and by the breeze from the south burned several buildings, among them the Oil City Coal and Lumber Mill. Immediately after the explosions people were terrorized and fled to the hills. Many ran without stopping from the vicinity of the railroad bridge to the cemetery. A crowd in the Third ward watching from the Center street bridge up the creek saw the fire coming, and many ran down Main street; looking back they saw the street behind them filled with flames, and the fire on the riverside seemed to accompany them in their flight. Many climbed up the steepest part of Clark's Summit and stayed there until late in the afternoon, when the fire had died down, where they were found by their friends. Those who had lost all they possessed were speedily helped, and so numerous were they that for the first time in its history Oil City received aid from the world outside. Governor Patterson came with members of his staff to offer assistance and everything possible was done to relieve distress.

At the present day the grades of upper Seneca street and of the west side are such that water as high as that of 1892 would not flood the houses.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

This was organized soon after the borough was formed. A steam engine was purchased after the fire of 1866. But after the completion of the water works in 1873, with a pressure of 130 pounds on the flats, hose companies were all that were needed. From that time until July 27, 1887, four or five volunteer companies composed the force. A paid department was formed under Chief Daniel Fisher, at a salary of five hundred dollars. The department has grown until the present time. In 1918 it has a chief and fire marshal, A. G. Dolby; assistant chief, T. A. Owens; drivers,

No. 1 auto truck, R. W. Anderson; No. 1 hook and ladder, auto truck, R. G. Rayner; No. 2 auto truck, Frank Simpson; No. 3 auto truck, Frank Curran; No. 4 auto truck, F. E. Nichols. Firemen, No. 1 Company: William Rayner, H. B. Bispham, A. J. Ryan; No. 2 Company: U. M. Latshaw, George Akins; No. 3 Company: S. P. McKain, Ralph Shanefelter; No. 4 Company: Herbert Hannah, E. A. Smith. There are four hose houses, well equipped with all modern means for fighting fire, two on each side of the river. The city has thirty-five fire alarm boxes, Gamewell system.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

The police department was organized May 16, 1861. It consisted at first of a chief and two regular officers, increasing to five in 1890, and six special officers. The present force comprises a chief, Edward Nugent; captain, J. S. McNerney; patrolmen, M. G. O'Brien, B. W. Eisenman, O. J. Skelly, O. W. McKenzie, J. G. Hobough, D. S. Nichols, C. W. Aikens. This department is supplied with a motor car.

#### WATER WORKS

The subject of water works was brought up in council by J. H. Evans in 1872. The double reservoir system was adopted. Two reservoirs were built with a capacity of seventy-five thousand barrels, about a mile and half above State street and nearly three hundred feet above the river. An engine house was built on the river bank, a brick and iron structure 40 by 100 feet. It had three pumps and one twelve-inch main across the river to supply the north side lowlands. Later two tanks were erected on Hasson Heights, supplied from the pump house by two eight-inch lines crossing the river and carrying the water against three hundred pounds pressure. One tank was also erected on Clark's Summit, supplied by an eight-inch main from Summit street, which is about half way up to the tank. There are two tanks on Rich Hill supplied by an eight-inch line direct from the pump house, carrying water against two hundred pounds pressure. The high parts of the city are certainly well supplied with fire protection. The first three pumps have been replaced by three more powerful ones capable of supplying eight million gallons of water daily, and one high-service power pump of five hundred thousand gallons daily, as well as several high-pressure

pumps for occasional use. The power house is well equipped with all that makes for successful service.

The greatest improvement in the water department was made in 1893-94, since which time the water has been taken from drilled wells upon Seneca Farm, one mile above the pump house. These wells were drilled near the bed of the river and to a distance of two hundred and fifty feet toward the bank. They were drilled through a gravel bar which here extends from bank to bank of the river. This bar is thirty-five feet thick and under it is several feet of sand to the rock beneath. The wells are drilled through the gravel and sand into the rock below. Of the sixteen which have been drilled, fourteen wells are now in use. Tubes are settled down into the rock having openings equal in area to the capacity of the tubes. Through these tubes the water flows into a settling well, from which it is siphoned to the well at the pump house. The water thus obtained is almost chemically pure, as frequent chemical analyses show. M. F. Johnson, superintendent of the department, and A. M. Breckinridge, clerk, have proved faithful officers, serving many years to the complete satisfaction of all concerned. Mr. Johnson probably knows the location of every joint of water-pipe in the city. His son, Fred C. Johnson, is the efficient assistant superintendent.

#### CITY LIGHTING

City illumination was agitated in 1875. On Jan. 26, 1876, a charter was granted to a company to supply the city with gas. The capital stock was \$75,000. The laying of pipe began in May, and on its completion, July 10th, the city was illuminated for the first time. The cost was \$70,000. After a few years the gas lamps were replaced by torches burning natural gas. These were replaced in turn by electric lights, furnished by the Citizens' Light and Power Company, which company as a part of the Citizens' Traction Company still lights the city. The boulevard system of lighting the business streets is sustained by the business men, making this city one of the best lighted in the country.

#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Oil City has an active and strong Chamber of Commerce. It was incorporated in 1912. Its president in 1918 is W. S. Paca; vice president, E. R. Boyle; second vice president, W.

S. McCuen; third vice president, Abe Silberberg; fourth vice president, C. L. Suhr; treasurer, Joseph W. Barr; secretary, James G. Hardy; directors, J. W. Barr, E. R. Boyle, W. L. Freeman, James Hasson, Joseph Levi, J. H. McClure, W. S. McCuen, W. S. Paca, G. F. Rowland, Abe Silberberg, C. L. Suhr.

From its earliest days those who have carried on the business of the city have been men of vision. They studied the needs of the people. The merchants who began in a small way, and who certainly overcame difficulties of transportation, were almost uniformly successful. To-day the stores of this small city have metropolitan virtues. They cater to all tastes and all incomes. So varied and rich are the stocks that no one needs to buy elsewhere, and consequently trade is stimulated and Oil City's reputation is well earned. The merchants do much to make this a city of homes of contentment.

#### CITY BUILDING

Until 1890 the city offices were housed in a plain wooden building of two stories. That year the corner stone of a new building was laid and the present structure of brick, three stories and basement, on Seneca street, was erected. The Second ward hose house joins the city building on the back part of the lot, leaving an open space in front which may be used in future should the building be enlarged. In the basement are cells for the detention of prisoners. There are also shops for the use of the city employes in the water, fire and other departments. The other floors have commodious offices for the city officials and a city hall which accommodates several hundred. While it is not an imposing structure it is creditable in its general appearance, and it has upon its front to-day an adornment that any city might regard with envy and admiration, the names of a thousand sons who have served their country in the world war and of many who have made the supreme sacrifice.

#### OTHER BUILDINGS

The first theatre in Oil City was called Bascom's Hall, which stood in the Third ward, where Main street turns to the west. It was finally abandoned. The first opera house was built in 1872 at the head of Center street, by John Love. It was remodeled in September, 1878, and reopened under the management of Samuel T. Jack. This was used until it was burned in February, 1884. In the summer of

1885 M. Geary (president), W. J. Young, Thomas B. Simpson, C. M. Loomis, and M. Lowentrift purchased the old site and in July began construction there. The spot was again visited by fire, but as before energetic citizens determined not to let Oil City suffer for amusement. The building has been practically made over several times, and many of the best known theatrical stars have appeared upon its stage. Mary Anderson, Joe Jefferson, Modjeska, Rhea, Robert Mantell, and hosts of others have found appreciation and have given delight here. Besides the opera house, during the last fifteen years, amusement seekers have had a choice of three high-grade moving picture theatres.

#### HOTELS

Some of the early hotels of the city have been mentioned, the Halyday, Bannon, Moran and Dickey taverns, and the "Petroleum House," one of the most noted, on the west side. The "Meade House" and the "Parker House" were two others on that side built in the first two years of the sixties. The "New York Hotel," also in the Third ward, is a brick building, and William Dwyer was its proprietor for many years. It is still owned by the Dwyer estate.

The first hotel on the east side was the "Edmunds," on the site of the Transit block. The name was changed to the "Ohio Hotel." There were many others, chiefly on Main and Center streets.

On the south side was the "Laytonia House," corner of Central avenue and Front street. This building was used as a hotel under various names until it was demolished to make way for the Carnegie Library. There were other hotels on the south side, notably the "City Hotel," which is still running and largely patronized. Later, more pretentious hotels were the "Imperial" on Seneca street, now a rooming house, the "National Hotel," "American," "Central," "Cottage Hotel," and "The Arlington" (built and for many years known as the "Collins House," now being remodeled by citizens who have formed a stock company). Others that were famous in their day but have passed on were the "Windsor," "Perry Hotel" and "O'Conner's Hotel."

#### HOSPITAL

As Oil City grew the need for a general hospital became imperative. People and press made public the general feeling that this was

an institution that must be built. In 1892 the idea had gained such force that steps were taken to convert the intention into a reality. A subscription list was started, and daily additions were made to it. When a sum sufficient to warrant it had been promised, work was begun. The gift of six and a quarter acres of land on Bissell avenue by Capt. William Hasson roused enthusiasm. From that time the success of the project was assured. The beautiful building was erected in 1893-94, and while it has been enlarged and improved as the years have passed it retains all the features which made it notable. Its grounds are kept with care. The magnificent trees make summer days delightful for the convalescent, and give comfort to those within doors. Through the generous thought of Mr. H. H. Rogers a home for nurses has been added, and this has made possible a more extensive training department. Mr. Rogers, previous to this, had given an endowment fund of \$25,000 to the hospital. In 1896 a contagious ward was built. A separate cottage was erected and paid for by funds raised by the women of Oil City, who issued a Woman's Edition of the *Derrick* in their campaign. Mr. P. C. Boyle, always interested in the hospital, made this work possible, giving all the printing, paper and, in short, everything except the literary work of the women and the business management of the various departments.

The hospital has always been a popular institution. Various societies as well as individuals have furnished rooms and given the oversight which great interest inspires. The surgical department of the hospital has been carefully considered by the management. Its equipment has kept pace with modern ideas, and "the best is none too good" has been the urgent thought of those in authority. The appropriations from the State have made this feasible. For many years Mr. P. C. Boyle has served on the State Board of Charities. He has given careful attention to the need of the home hospital as well as those of other sections and has been able to speak convincingly in behalf of the needs of Oil City.

The board that organized the hospital and superintended its construction consisted of the following citizens: President, Kenton Chickering; vice president, T. B. Simpson; treasurer, J. R. Campbell; secretary, B. F. Brundred; and George P. Hukill, J. B. Maitland, M. Geary. The cornerstone was laid July 4, 1893, and the hospital was completed and occupied May 1, 1894. At this time the board was increased to fifteen members as follows: K.

Chickering, J. R. Campbell, M. Lowentritt, P. C. Boyle, H. H. Rand, W. R. Barr, George Lewis, T. B. Simpson, B. F. Brundred, M. Geary, J. H. Fulmer, G. P. Hukill, J. B. Maitland, William Hasson, Joseph Seep. After a few years the number of directors was decreased to eleven, as at present. The present officers are: President, S. Y. Ramage; vice president, Joseph W. Barr; secretary, E. P. Theobald; treasurer, S. R. Ball; assistant secretary and treasurer, A. G. Frye; superintendent, Mrs. C. Dice, R. N.; directors: S. Y. Ramage, William Hasson, Joseph W. Barr, Thomas R. Weymouth, Joseph Love, E. O. Theobald, S. R. Ball, J. H. Chickering, J. B. Crawford, Lewis S. McKinley, T. B. Judge.

The Oil City Hospital has the honor of being the first one in this part of the State. The year of its organization, 1892, before it possessed a building or the means necessary to relieve suffering, it was met by the horror of the "fire and flood of 1892." A storage room was vacated, and furnished from generous homes. There the victims of the disaster found care and relief. Here the hospital worked for nearly two years before entering its home on the hill. It is the city's monument to the white soul of charity.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF OIL IN 1864

The accompanying cut is made from a photograph taken March 14, 1864, from the east span of the wooden bridge over Oil creek at Center street, Oil City, Pa., looking south, and gives a typical view of the manner of transporting oil when Oil creek was the center of the oil-producing region, and before the advent of railroads and pipe lines. It shows the mouth of Oil creek and north side of the Allegheny river, covered with oil boats. The boats loaded with barreled oil were called flat-boats; the decked boats were called oil barges and carried oil in bulk. These boats were towed up Oil creek by horses, and after being loaded on the banks of the stream from nearby oil wells were floated down by a crew of two or three men. In the river may also be seen "keel boats" loaded high with empty oil barrels, which were towed to this point by river steamers from Pittsburgh, two of which are shown in the view. The barreled oil in the smaller flatboats was dumped out of the barrels into bulk barges holding from nine hundred to fourteen hundred barrels. The loaded bulk barges on the larger flatboats were usually towed by steamer towboats to Pittsburgh, at which place were located many oil refineries.

When these towboats were scarce the loaded oil boats were floated down by a crew of several men, including a river pilot. The empty boats were towed back by the steamers. This navigation could occur only when the waters were at boating stage, which was in the spring; in the fall; two or three rises in the summer; or during a breakup in the winter.

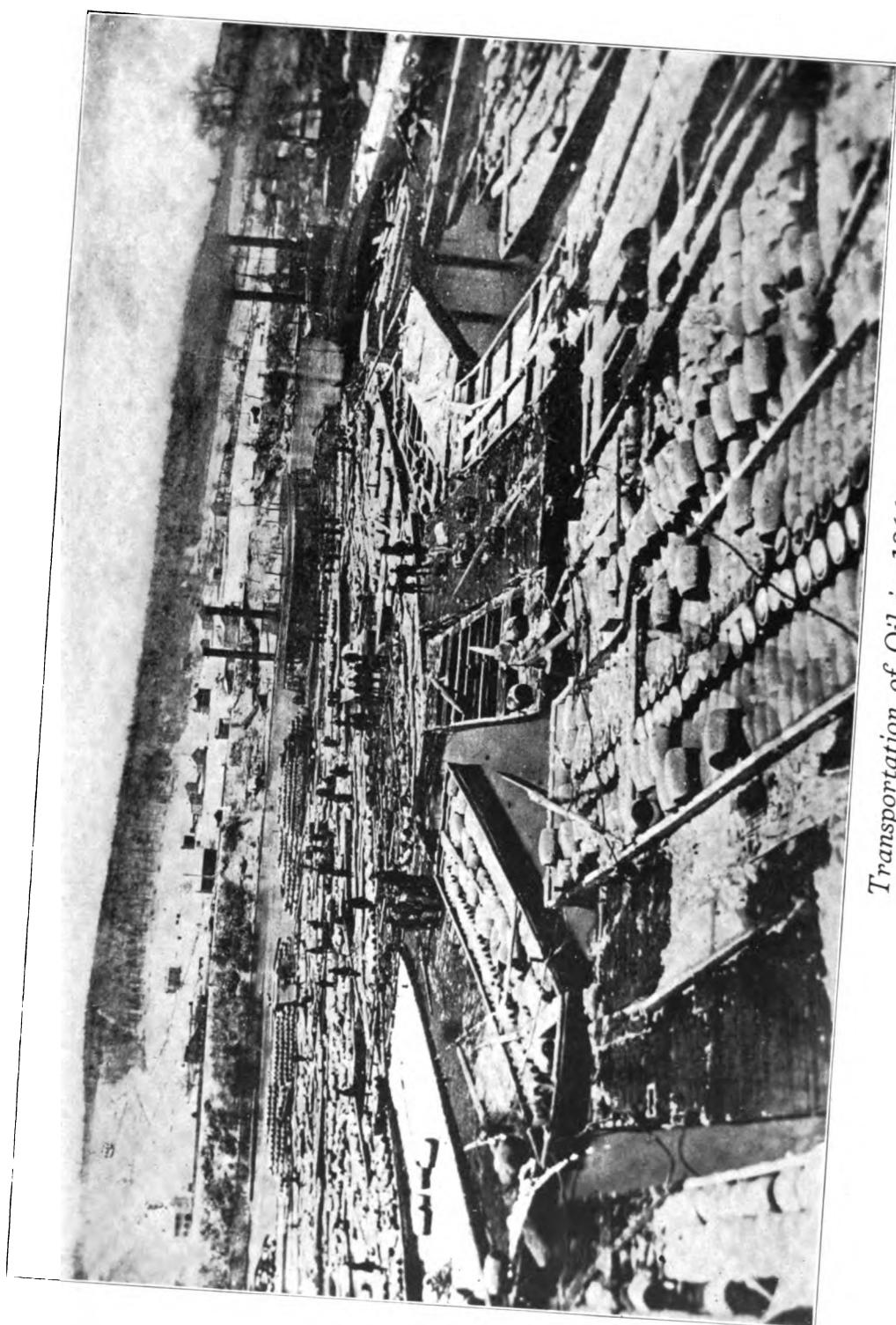
When lumbering was in vogue in the vicinity of Titusville, before the discovery of oil, the water in the several sawmill dams there was released simultaneously for the purpose of causing a temporary rise in Oil creek during periods of low water. These rises, called pond freshets, were used to float down lumber; and in 1862 and 1863 they were produced every week or so for the purpose of floating down oil boats. They were gradually discontinued in 1865 because the practice of towing boats by horses both upstream and down became constant, and the lowering of the water in Oil creek during the time of filling the dams was detrimental to the traffic. In the view are also seen coal barges, in which great quantities of Pittsburgh coal were towed up from Pittsburgh and sold throughout the oil region.

That part of the view beyond the Allegheny river is now a part of the Fourth, Fifth and Ninth wards in South Oil City. Snow that fell the previous night covers the scene.—(This article on "Transportation of Oil in 1864" was furnished by Mr. J. B. Smithman, of Oil City.)

The boats shown in the picture of the "pond freshet" and the steamboats waiting to load with oil and to take a tow of oil boats down the river are in the "harbor" at Oil City, or, as it is generally called, Moran's Eddy. Since 1828, when the first stern-wheeler came to Oil Creek Furnace, steamboats of various sizes, and shapes, until the coming of the railway, were the usual means of transportation, when the water was sufficient. The boat landings and oil wharves extended nearly a mile, along the north shore of the river, and were located as follows:

Bushnell's Landing, foot of Chestnut street.  
Benny, Baylis & Company, No. 244 Main street.  
Cochran's, No. 264 Main street.  
Conkle's, No. 298 Main street.  
Dilworth and Ewing's, foot of Robson street.  
Ellison and Baxter's, foot of Walnut street.  
Fisher's, foot of Hanna street.  
Fisher's No. 2, foot of Chestnut street.  
Fawcett Brothers, foot of Chestnut street.  
Gallager and Danver's, foot of Walnut street.  
Holdeman and Murray's, No. 242 Main street.

*Transportation of Oil in 1864*



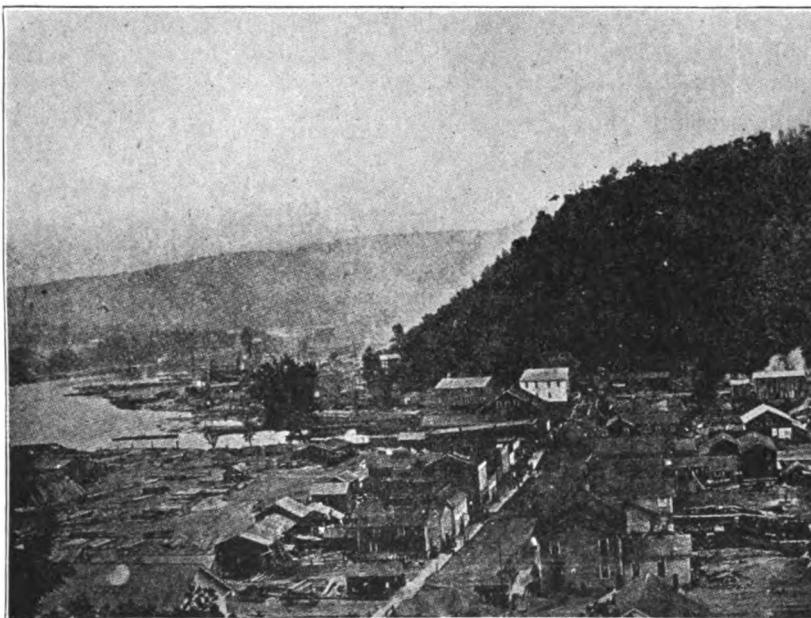


Jackson's, No. 290 Main street.  
 Lucesco Oil Company's, foot of Oak street.  
 Munhall's, foot of Chestnut street.  
 McKelvey and Miller's, foot of Walnut street.  
 Mawhinney's, No. 262 Main street.  
 Oil City Storage Co.'s, foot of Oak street.  
 Parker and Castle's, foot of Parker street.  
 Porteous', foot of Walnut street.  
 Phillips and Company's, foot of Hanna street.  
 Vandergrift's, on Chestnut street.

This list of the wharves, and the picture of the boats in, on one run, present the best summary of the immense business transacted here.

of man do not combine into results of utility or of beauty, unless they are controlled by Thought, sitting supreme somewhere in the midst of seeming confusion.

The manufacturing plants of the city grew from inventions to supply the needs of the oil business as they were felt at the center of the producing territory. For this reason, these plants are growing today at a more rapid rate than ever before, even faster than the city itself; for their agents visit the oil fields of the world, study conditions, and for every new



OIL CITY, 1863—CENTER STREET, LOOKING WEST, BOAT LANDINGS ON POINT

There were millions of dollars worth of oil stacked up in barrels on the wharves, and in the boats alongside, at almost anytime, for a number of years.

Cities, as well as men, may "have greatness thrust upon them," as shown by the early life of Oil City. Wealth in floods rolled in upon her, demanding to be taken care of, passed along, and exchanged. It fairly overwhelmed her. As fast as one condition was met, a more difficult one followed, requiring greater efforts. The instruments to control this great flood of prosperity had to be improvised almost at once and on the spot; and this was done so successfully that the marvel of it seems greater as time passes. Greatness does not come from the push of circumstances outside, but from the reaction of the human element. The blind jostling forces of nature or

obstacle provide the right tool. They will live as long as oil is produced anywhere. Details of Oil City enterprises will be found in Chapter XIV, Manufacturing.

#### CEMETERIES

Oil City has two cemeteries, the Grove Hill cemetery and St. Joseph's Catholic cemetery. Both are located on Cottage hill. Both are cared for with almost faultless solicitude, the grounds being tended scrupulously. The present officers are:

*Grove Hill Association*—President, J. M. Daugherty; vice president, H. C. Highgate; secretary, Esther Organ; treasurer, H. H. Stephenson; directors, D. T. Borland, D. K. Johnson, S. R. Ball, E. A. Siederman, L. E. Keller.

*St. Joseph's Association*—President and treasurer, Right Rev. Monsignor P. J. Sheridan, V. G.; trustees, P. H. Shields, John Wagner.

## II. FRANKLIN

Few towns have so rich a background of history as Franklin has. Looking back at the "old Indian town of Venango," as Washington called it then, we can still see through the mists of 165 years many moving forms of men. They were empire seekers, builders of empires. Considering the greatness of their purpose, which was to seize the heart of a continent, and how near they came to success, they must ever appear among the largest figures of time. But among them moved the slender figure of a young surveyor from Virginia, who foresaw their design and was the cause of its frustration. After building up his own country his lofty spirit touched his former opponents across the sea into new life. To-day his monument with the serene face looks out over Paris and seems no stranger there. And some years ago a wise English ambassador said with truth that George Washington was a better Englishman than George III.

The visit of Washington, with all its momentous consequences, including the trip to Fort Le Boeuf where he penetrated the cloak of courtesy assumed by the commander, is one of time's rich gifts to Franklin. In the present day thoughts arise of this young man who found in this vicinity much that strengthened his faith in that which was to come, and he left material for visions which stir the hearts of a new line of patriots and heroes.

### PERIOD OF EARLY POSSESSION

The French completed their fort at Venango in 1754, and for five years they ruled the valley from Fort Machault and the two other fortresses from the mouth of the creek to Lake Erie. In 1759 two thousand French and Indians were assembled at Venango to make a descent upon Fort Pitt. They received an order to evacuate and destroy the fort, this order applying to all the French forts in western Pennsylvania. They distributed what they could not carry among the Indians. The fort was destroyed by fire and they retired by way of Forts Le Boeuf and Presque Isle, which they also destroyed, then hastened on their way to the defense of Fort Niagara. During the next four years the

valley was in the possession of the English. They built Fort Venango.

During the English occupation there were no settlers. Fort Venango was destroyed by the Indians in 1763, as a part of Pontiac's war. After this the valley remained in the possession of the Indians for twenty-five years. In 1787 the Americans again took possession of the valley, which they have held to the present time.

### GEORGE POWER

With the military company of the United States army, which built Fort Franklin, came the first settler, George Power. He was connected with the commissary department. Fort Franklin was built on the bank of French creek, near what is now Thirteenth street. During the next three years George Power was absent from Franklin but returned, and in 1790 he built a house near the fort, passing the rest of his life in Franklin. With his return modern Franklin began. Previous to this time, from the coming of the French and the visit of Washington, the occurrences here concerned the State, the nation and, to a great extent, Europe and Asia. The new activities had reference to Franklin and the county.

### THE TOWN ESTABLISHED

It will be remembered that Franklin was one of four towns that were laid out and named by the State, viz., Erie, Waterford, Warren and Franklin. In 1789 the general assembly declared that three thousand acres should be surveyed at the Fort of Venango for the use of the Commonwealth. On April 18, 1795, commissioners were directed to survey one thousand acres of the reservation and lay out therein the town of Franklin. Ganagaran-hare is the name first applied to this site by Coffen in 1753. This name was used but once. Then it is Weningo, Wenango, Vinango and finally Venango. The engineering work was done by Gen. William Irvin and Andrew Ellicott. They came to Fort Franklin with a corps of surveyors in the summer of 1795, protected by a company of State troops. Work was commenced by running a street one hundred feet wide down the creek, then making an angle down the river. This was Liberty street. Other streets were run parallel to this until the flat was exhausted, when the proper number of cross streets were made and the whole laid out in lots. In the center of

the town, where Twelfth street crosses Liberty, a large plat of ground was reserved for a public park. The good taste of the engineers was manifest so far. But in naming the streets after beasts and birds and fishes and creeping things they failed to please the residents and some of the names were changed.

#### EARLY RESIDENTS

George Power built his house near the fort, just below the present upper bridge. As he was then a bachelor this served as both home and trading shop. Afterward he built, on the corner of Otter and Elbow streets, a stone house which was taken down in 1872. One of the first to arrive after Power was James G. Heron, sometimes called Captain Heron. He was appointed to the office of associate judge. He had been an officer in the Revolutionary war, and he must have come very soon after the town was laid out, since his name appears on the books of George Power the same year, 1795. In 1797 his name appears frequently on the books of Edward Hale. Judge Heron died Dec. 30, 1809. His widow lived to an advanced age. One of her daughters, Mrs. Cutts, was living in Philadelphia, Pa., as late as 1880. Another daughter, Mary Ann Heron, was married to David Irvine, the first lawyer settling in Franklin. She long survived her husband, spending her later years at Erie, though she made a number of visits to Franklin to brighten old associations. Mrs. Mary Ann Irvine wrote to Dr. Eaton, under date of Jan. 26, 1876, in her ninety-third year, giving her recollections of Franklin at the time of the arrival of her father's family, in 1800. This letter has appeared in former histories, but as it is the most valuable historic document in the county, describing that period, it is worth inserting again. The portion relating to the village affairs follows:

Dear Sir: I sit down to give you a few items of my recollections of Franklin at an early day. I have a notice of my father's death which I will send you. He was an officer of the Revolution and was called Captain Heron until he was appointed associate judge. Then some people called him Judge, and some Captain. He came to Franklin in 1800, with a large family. The family came by land. The servants, five in number, and the furniture came by water from Pittsburgh, in a keel-boat, and were three weeks on the voyage.

There were five families in Franklin (summer of 1800) when we arrived. Capt. George Fowler was in the fort, but no troops, as the Indians were friendly. The pickets were still standing, and the quarters of both officers and soldiers were in good order. The fort was at the junction of French creek

and the Allegheny river. Col. Alexander McDowell lived a little farther up the creek, in a log house without windows or doors. There was no carpenter in Franklin at that time. The settlers were obliged to put up blankets where the doors and windows should have been.

There were a great many Indians about, who were very noisy when drunk. They often encamped on the opposite side of the creek, at the Point, and would whoop and yell half the night. I never heard Mrs. McDowell say she was afraid of them.

Colonel McDowell came to Franklin in 1794. I do not know the month. He was deputy surveyor and an agent of the Holland Land Company, under Maj. Roger Alden, of Meadville. Mr. H. J. Huidekoper had not come to this country at that time. Colonel McDowell was also a magistrate. He built a log house on the hill, a short distance from the creek, where he and his family lived after it was weather-boarded. There was no carpenter nearer than the mouth of Oil creek, to which place he sent for Mr. Broadfoot, who came and brought his son, John, then about sixteen years of age. They finished the house in 1802.

Mrs. McDowell spoke of everything being scarce, as is usually the case in new countries. Owing to the scarcity of garden seeds and chickens she was obliged to perform a curious surgical operation. She had been fortunate enough to raise a few melons, and was very careful of the seed. She washed them and put them in the sun to dry. Not long afterward, in looking out, she saw a hen eating them. As she could not afford to lose either the seeds or the hen, she sent a man to catch it, and taking a pair of scissors she cut open the craw and squeezed out the precious contents. She then sewed up the wound with a needle and thread, and set the hen down, who ran away to join her two companions and began scratching as though nothing had happened. Mrs. McDowell was a lively, energetic woman, a kind neighbor, and one that I liked very much.

My friend George Power was not married when we came to Franklin. His mother, a nice old lady, kept house for him. He was married to Margaret Bowman, December 30, 1800.\* He was a merchant, an excellent, honest man, amiable, kind, and liked by all.

Next were our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hale, very clever people, and the parents of Mrs. Andrew Bowman and Mrs. James Kinnear.

Marcus Hulings lived on the bank of French creek. He had a large family of children. He ran a keel-boat from Franklin to Pittsburgh. I do not know what year he came to Franklin.

Abraham Selders also lived in Franklin. He was a son-in-law of Daddy and Mammy Hulings, as they were always called.

I do not think we had any preaching till 1801. Then a clergyman came, who preached in our house. I do not know what denomination he belonged to, but I think he was a Presbyterian. After that there was a small log cabin put up, with a clap-board roof. This building was used for a schoolhouse, and I had the honor of being a scholar. Our first teacher was James Mason from Sugar Creek, who boarded around with the scholars.

Marcus Hulings buried a son, Michael, in the old Franklin cemetery, who died Aug. 9.

\* An old family record shows that George Power was married Dec. 30, 1799.

1797. This is the earliest inscription in the cemetery. Massar, wife of Marcus, was buried there, having died Feb. 9, 1813, aged sixty-seven years. The first date indicates that Marcus Hulings was among the earliest settlers here.

Of the five families mentioned in the letter, George Power, here to stay in 1790, was for at least three years the only resident not connected with the garrison. Col. Alexander McDowell came in 1794. He was deputy surveyor, and located many of the warrants of the Holland Land Company in this and adjoining counties. In 1796 he was appointed justice of the peace, the first magistrate in Venango county. Having provided a log house just below the present dam, he brought his family here in 1797. In 1802 he built a more pretentious house. It was on Elk street, below Eleventh. John Broadfoot, the carpenter who constructed the doors and windows and other finishings, came from the mouth of Oil creek, remained, and became a prominent citizen. In this house, wall-paper, the first seen in Franklin, adorned the walls. The sheets of paper were strong and thick, lasting till the house was torn down in 1874. Its light ground was covered with pictures of boys and dogs in blue, and pleased the children and grown people of several generations. Cornplanter was a friend of Colonel McDowell because of his kindness in surveying the land granted to the sachem and helping him to secure and occupy his home. The Colonel died in January, 1816, at the age of fifty-three. His wife survived him nearly fifty years, dying at the age of one hundred and three. Of all the people who have lived in Franklin, she was the oldest. Thomas Skelly McDowell, son of Colonel McDowell, was born here and lived and died within ten rods of his father's old house. He was seventy-three years old at his death, in 1876.

Edward Hale arrived from Fayette county in 1798, bringing his household goods and family on horseback, and was the second trader with the Indians and with the citizens of the village and the nearby settlers. His ledger has names under date of 1797, which indicates that he came at least a year before he decided to settle here. He was an enterprising man, and acquired property that in after years became valuable. Among his papers found after his death was one dated June 10, 1801, signed by James McClaran and Alexander McDowell, trustees, leasing "all that part of the public square which he now has under fence at one dollar a year,"

until the ground shall be needed by the public. Mr. Hale died at the age of thirty, in 1806, before his enterprises and business ability had time to mature. He was the father of Mrs. Sarah Bowman and Mrs. Jane Kinnear. Mrs. Hale was afterward married to William Parker and took up her residence at Bear Creek, on the river below. The younger daughter, Jane (Hale) Kinnear, lived in Franklin until her death, March 31, 1870.

George Fowler came over as an English soldier during the Revolution. The new country attracted him. He became the fourth settler in Franklin, probably in 1796. His service in the British army was not remembered against him. He was living in the "Old Garrison" after its use by the military ceased, serving as justice of the peace, in company with his better half. His wife sometimes acted as volunteer justiciary, not reversing his decisions, but sometimes nipping actions in the bud. An amusing incident has been preserved. Gen. Sam. Hays was driving a yoke of oxen through the streets, and following classic example, waded the streams and trod the dust without shoes or stockings. A neighbor, meeting him, began to jeer at his short raiment. Sam said nothing, but applied his ox whip vigorously to the unmannerly citizen. The whipped man went straight to Captain Fowler to get a warrant for the offender. While the justice was writing the warrant his wife entered:

"What are you doing now, daddy?"

"Writing a warrant."

"And who is the warrant for?"

"For Sam Hays."

"And who has the impudence to sue Sam Hays?"

"Why, this man here, Mr. Blank."

"And what did Sam Hays do?"

"He says he threshed him with his ox-whip."

"And served him right, I warrant. Get out of my house, Mr. Blank. I'll have nobody here suing Sam Hays."

The complainant departed when Mrs. Fowler tore the half-written warrant into bits, which she threw into the flames. The woman's instinct probably grasped the best conclusion of the matter. Sam Hays was at the dawn of his popularity, which grew through his long, sunny day. Mr. Blank considered himself important and was doubtless thought so by others, or he might not have presumed to rebuke the jolly Irishman. An acrimonious action for assault and battery might have divided the town into two factions and promoted un-

friendliness. The good-natured Hays would regret his action as soon as his quick anger cooled, and he would doubtless make ample apologies to his neighbor. In all General Hays' varied life, public or private, after this episode, he was preeminently the man of unruffled temper.

Marcus Hulings lived just at the foot of Twelfth street. His house might have been seen as late as 1855, fronting the creek. He owned a fine farm near Fort Pitt, which he sold in 1794, or 1795. His family was in Franklin in August, 1797, the year that Colonel McDowell brought his family to the log house prepared for them. Mr. Hulings may have followed the common example of those settling in new parts then, and preceded his family here, one or even two years. In 1800 he was living in his house near the creek and plying his keel boat between Franklin and Pittsburgh, taking down consignments of peltries and other products of the forests and bringing back goods for the traders. The activities of his family in directing and assisting the transport of supplies for Perry's fleet in hot August days, from Pittsburgh to Erie, are noticed in another part of this volume. His descendants are now residents of the county, prominent in society, successful in business, patriotic from generation to generation.

Abraham Selders, a son-in-law of Marcus Hulings, was appointed justice of the peace in 1801, and was elected commissioner in 1816. He was familiar with the river as an associate of his father-in-law. Like the men of his time generally, he was fond of hunting. He was a good citizen and was evidently so regarded by his fellow men.

The carpenter who came to finish Colonel McDowell's house, John Broadfoot, from Oil creek, found more demands for his work than he could easily answer. He remained in Franklin. He had one son, John, and four daughters. Of them, one was married to Samuel Hays, one to Alexander and one to Robert McCalmont. Mr. Broadfoot was chosen as one of first elders of the Presbyterian Church.

A blacksmith, Ezra McCall, came early. He burned his own charcoal on the banks of the creek, and procured his iron from Pittsburgh by boat. He was sufficient in his line for the period.

William Connely came in 1806. He had a number of professions—surveyor, politician, preacher, merchant; and was able to command respect in all of them. He was county surveyor in 1817 and again in 1840-45. He was

in the legislature from 1819 to 1821, and was appointed associate judge in 1862. He died aged ninety-three, in Franklin, May 23, 1871. He was a prominent man in county affairs.

The brothers, William and James Kinnear, were well known citizens seventy-five years ago. Descendants of William are in the county yet, honorable people and respected citizens. James kept a hotel, a famous house in that time, for the Colonel knew how to make his guests comfortable. His helper, George, had marked individuality. He was the proprietor's good Boswell, and thought the hotel one of the finest in the world—a thought expressed by dignified deportment. James Kinnear was county treasurer in 1819, and associate judge in 1845 and the years following.

Among the early comers were the Moores, the McCalmonts and the Plumers. William Moore, the grandfather of Dr. E. W. Moore, was appointed the first prothonotary in 1805, serving till 1818. Arnold Plumer was elected sheriff in 1823 and appointed prothonotary in 1830. He was member of Congress four years and canal commissioner, an office which by his incumbency acquired peculiar significance, deciding the choice of the next president of the country. Alexander McCalmont, sheriff in 1811, surveyor in 1812, prothonotary from 1818 to 1824, was appointed president judge in 1839. Many from these families have been promoters of the higher life of the county, and their influence continues.

During this period the Smiths, Isaac and John, noted river pilots, were conducting rafts and boats down the river. James Brown, the drummer, was also wise in water ways. These three were in demand at every rafting stage and June freshet. Their calling was useful, even essential, to the growth of the young town.

Before the century entered its "teens," George and Hugh McClelland came from Ireland to live in Franklin. Even in the first generation the name was honored; but George C., a son of George and a graduate of West Point, won unfading laurels in both the Mexican and the Civil wars. As a leader, he was daring but successful. At the siege of Veru Cruz, while scouting with six companions, he was surrounded by 150 enemy soldiers. Instead of yielding he stayed till relieved by a regiment. At the beginning of the Civil war he raised a company in Franklin. In 1863 he was stationed with his company on guard duty near Williamsburg. His own regiment, about eight hundred, early one morning, passed him pell mell in retreat led by their command-

der. He was told to withdraw before a coming overwhelming force. He disobeyed the order. When the pursuing horsemen, numbering six hundred, began to emerge from the woods they were met by rapid volleys of revolver shots, and then by the shock of the charge made by unexpected forces, whose numbers they could not know, the front ranks recoiled, the rear were confused. Soon the Southern horsemen were in full retreat. The trained quick-witted officer had calculated the effect of "surprise" upon the fleeing regiment and upon the pursuing one. Others with kindred spirits have gone to war from this county, even in the latest years. Traditions are transmuted into living forces, in the army.

Andrew Bowman came into the county with his father's family in 1795, settling in Sugar Creek township. After working at the tanning and shoemaking business till 1813, he removed to Franklin, where he continued the same lines of industry. He was an active, prosperous citizen until broken down by the infirmities of age. He died in 1859. He was elected to some of the best offices in the gift of his fellow citizens, serving as sheriff, member of the legislature and prothonotary, discharging the duties of these trusts satisfactorily. His home was the center of cheerful hospitality. Mrs. Bowman, wife of Andrew, was the oldest daughter of Edward Hale. As a young girl she lived in early Franklin. Later she resided at Bear Creek, a wilderness compared wth her former home. From the forest well supplied with beasts and Indians, even for those days, she returned bearing the charm of gracious young womanhood to become the wife of a prosperous resident of the county seat. Her experiences were various, some dangerous, others humorous as nature had appeared to threaten or to joke with the girl; but as she related them, all, even the most thrilling, were pleasing. In her memory they were treasures, whether rough or polished. How could it be? Was it because the lively spirit within her always seized the true effect? Mrs. Bowman survived her husband nearly twelve years before joining "the choir invisible."

The population in 1824 was probably 250. Among the families were the Parks, McCalmonts, McClellands, Plumers, Kinnears, McCormicks, Connelys, Martins, Morrisons, Ridgeways, Sayes, Clarks, Gildersleaves, Hulings, Blacks, Dewoodys, Smiths, Crarys, Smiley, Brighams, Seatons, Mays, Baileys, Kings, Gurneys, Kelloggs, Graces, McDowells, Broadfoots, Dodds, Hays, William Raymond, Dr.

Espy, Stephen Sutton, John Galbraith, John J. Pearson. Later came the Mackeys, Barclays, Hannas, Irwins, Snowdens, Adamses, Thompsons, Renos, Woods, Andersons, Hoovers, Lambertons, Cochran, Dubbs, and a number of others. Of the persons named probably none are living. They have many descendants who are among the present citizens.

#### PIONEER MERCHANTS

Among the early needs of a civilized town is the general store. Settlers farthest away from business feel this need most keenly. The store follows the settlers closely; sometimes the order is reversed, the trader leading, the pioneers coming later, and pitching their log cabins within easy reach of some center of exchange, as exemplified in a number of small villages in the county. The first at Franklin was George Power, followed soon by Edward Hale, as shown by his account books still extant. Among the early dealers was John Wilkins, from Pittsburgh, and Archibald Tanner, who married a daughter of Alexander McDowell and afterward removed to Warren, where he became an influential citizen. James Harriott was also a merchant. William Connely, successful in other fields, was for sometime a storekeeper, as were his sons-in-law, Arthur Robison and Alexander McCalmont, later sheriff and surveyor, prothonotary and clerk, lawyer and judge. A. McCalmont & Co.'s advertisement in the *Herald* is supposed to be the earliest appearing in a Franklin newspaper. The date is Nov. 21, 1822. "The subscribers have just received and are now opening at their store, on the public square nearly opposite the court house, in the town of Franklin, a fresh supply of seasonable goods; which, with their stock on hand, comprises a general assortment of dry goods, groceries, queensware, schoolbooks, stationery, 10-4, 9-4, 8-4, 7-4 rose blankets, Indian blankets, men's and women's saddles, plated and common curb bridles, best rifle powder, bar lead and flints, English and American blistered steel, best Crowley steel, Rappee snuff, indigo, madder, copperas, alum, sweet oil, spirits of turpentine, men's coarse shoes, ladies' morocco shoes, weaver's needs, magazines and common almanacs for 1823, which they will sell low for cash or the following articles of country produce: beeswax, tallow, flax, country linen, butter, pork, lard, flour, whiskey, furs, deer skins, rags, bags, feathers, dry apples and peaches, oats, wheat and woolen socks." The list of goods is attractive even

at the present day. Those taken in exchange, probably the ones most commonly offered, speak loudly of the progress of the settlers during a quarter century. Until recently, country merchants treated produce at their price as equal to cash. This was good advertising, attracting and holding trade. The business rested upon exchanges of goods.

Other merchants were: William Kinnear, who was born in Ireland, 1773, and came to this country in 1785. He stopped at Pithole about 1800, whence he came to Franklin in 1811. His dwelling house, corner of Elk and Tenth streets, where he lived till his demise in September, 1844, was his first place of business. Later his store was on the corner of Liberty and Twelfth streets. Mr. Kinnear was a good citizen respected by the community, a leading member of the Methodist Church. He served as commissioner and as justice of the peace. His daughters, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Smiley and Mrs. Bushnell, all settled in Franklin. His son, Francis D., occupied the parental homestead.

William Raymond came from Connecticut in 1823, and occupied his store on Liberty street from that date to 1861. He lived to be the oldest merchant residing in Franklin. He was county treasurer, 1833-34. His wife, Nancy Kinnear, long survived him, holding the affection and esteem of many friends.

Arnold Plumer, one of the foremost citizens, was in the mercantile business for a time. F. G. Crary carried on business largely at the mouth of Oil creek. Hugh McClelland, born in Ireland in 1798, also had a store here. He was a bachelor, and died in 1840. Myron Park, from Sheffield, Mass., came to Franklin in 1824. His store was on Liberty street. His home was erected on the corner of Elk and South Park streets. As a merchant he was distinguished by sound judgment and fine taste. He was a gentleman unassuming, efficient in business, securing the respect and friendship of his associates. His presence was attractive, but so was his life.

Robert Lamberton was a noted merchant. He came to Franklin in 1830, and soon afterward opened a little store which grew rapidly, becoming a strong rival of the best. He entered the iron business, but from 1860 to 1873 he conducted a bank. From 1862 to 1866 he was associate judge of the Venango county courts. His service as one of the ruling elders of the Presbyterian Church extended through many years. He married Margaret Seaton. During his life of fifty-five years in Franklin

he received deservedly the respect and confidence of Venango county people. He passed from earth Aug. 7, 1885. There are three generations of his worthy descendants now living.

Samuel Bailey, an Englishman, came to the county in 1817 and soon settled in Franklin as a merchant. He married Mary, oldest daughter of William Kinnear, in November, 1819. He succeeded in business. He died September 14, 1855.

George Brigham was born in Hull, England, in June, 1788, and came to Franklin in 1817. He married Catherine, the oldest daughter of George Power, Dec. 2, 1819, and after a prosperous mercantile career died Oct. 19, 1846, in his fifty-ninth year.

James Bleakley was also here in business seventy years ago. Having learned the printer's trade, he purchased a paper, acted as merchant and broker, and conducted a banking business. His sons and grandsons are successful bankers in this year, 1919.

The Indians were brisk traders, even though the peltries, furs, bear-meat and venison which they offered in exchange were still running in the woods or swimming the streams. They enjoyed getting paid first—it seemed to add zest to trapping and hunting. They were children, pleased with gaudy trifles, forgetful that "strong drink is raging" and were easily "deceived thereby," not being wise. They kept their credit good at the stores, and the merchants lost comparatively little at their hands. The sale of a fine silver gray fox skin four times in one day by the combined guile of four Indians, to George Power, was a notable exception, which proves that the contrary was the rule. The red skins appeared as usual, one at a time with a pelt. Mr. Power bought as usual, and flung each one into a low loft at the back of the store, accessible from the outside. The one pelt was conclusive proof of the contrariness of the rule.

#### THE EARLY MECHANICS

The early mechanics came as they were needed, and the absence of machinery made a demand for their work. The first stonemason was Abraham Selders, who built as good walls as could be made with cobble stones and chips broken off the larger blocks to form spalls, with one feathery edge to hold mortar between the cobbles.

The Ridgways, John and Noah, were boat-builders. They came in 1801 and prepared

several places on the river bank where boats could be "turned in" or launched. Theirs was a necessary industry for the time.

Hatters there were—Edward Patchell and Andrew Dewoody, his pupil. One of their construction would outlast even the noblest work of God, and might be handed down from generation to generation. No one mere man could wear one to its dissolution. The man would dissolve first. If either of these men had aspired to the handling of the shining silks which came in later, and changed them with the changes, a fortune would have been made.

John Broadfoot, the first carpenter, was in constant demand. His work was done honestly, and in pleasing style.

Some years later brick houses appeared, but their increase was slow and the stone work at the foundation was found to be inadequate—the experience usually of growing, isolated towns. John Singleton was the first maker of bricks. In 1848 there were only four brick houses in the town.

John Witherup, the builder of the first jail and courthouse, made as good stone walls as could be expected by the theories of masonry then in vogue. Stone blocks were not used, though they could be found of fine quality and unlimited quantity in the hills; but cobbles were gathered and chinked round with wedge-shaped slivers of sand stone or grit, and scant mortar made a wall inclined to crumble. The mechanics did their work under new conditions, meeting difficulties increasing with the town's growth. Cobble stones were taken from general circulation, and assembled in piles, which was good. Cobbles are interesting survivals of glaciers working millions of years in French and Sugar Creek valleys, grinding down the rocks into meadows, digging little lake basins to feed the flats and make them fertile before the coming of man; but they make uneasy walls. Their million-year tendency to move clings to them still. They are so hard and smooth that nothing sticks to them. "Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers." The oldest college in Oxford throws off a thin, paint-like scale from weathering once in about two hundred years. This building is now in its thirteenth century. When all the university buildings have weathered thin, wisdom may come from knowledge, and decide what is the best building stone. Perhaps the present county buildings will endure for two thousand years, barring earthquakes and jail breakers, with additions, above and around.

Mr. Service, the first saddler, was a good

workman. Following the prevailing example, he contributed in saddlery work five dollars to help build the first Presbyterian Church. A fine sentiment hangs over the old church buildings erected in the town. They were largely built by contributions peculiar to the givers, of labor and materials, to command more work. Is not this the inner meaning of the miracle of the loaves and fishes? Feed the multitude! Break up the little loaves, distribute the few fishes! Obey the command, the result is miraculous.

Ezra McCall was the first worker in iron. Few were the horses in those days to be shod, but he could forge axes, and do whatever work the citizens required. He was a god-send to the children, who while picking up their crumbs of cognition watched his preparation of charcoal on the banks of the creek, and entered his shop later to see the sparks fly. Mr. McCall's reputation as an honest man and faithful helper in the early trials, survives him to this day.

After him came John Luper, whose shop was on the ground now occupied by the "Exchange Hotel." He was a Pennsylvania German and spoke with a strong accent. He was a military man, a Hessian perhaps, who like many others remained and became patriotic citizens. He was made captain of the militia. At the general muster he heard someone say, "I wonder if the Dutchman expects us to mind his orders?" When the company was drawn up he faced the line and announced that the first man disobeying an order would be placed under guard till sundown. He had no trouble. He took up farming later and lived to a ripe old age. He was succeeded by another German, George Grieshaber, from Austria, who had served as blacksmith and cavalryman in the American army. He was not so popular as his predecessor, because he required the owner to hold the horses' foot, and his code of ethics was thought not adapted to the banks of the Allegheny.

John Paden was the chairmaker in 1826. He also gave of his handiwork to help the building of the new church.

The first cabinetmakers were the Alexanders, father and son. It is probable that specimens of their work still linger in some of the older houses. Many chairs, a hundred years old, are still better than the modern ones—to sit in; some of the ancient cherry tables, with "polished-by-use extension leaves," are now invaluable.

Shoes were supplied by Jeremiah Clancy, who varied his work by keeping hotel on Thir-

teenth street at times and was successful in both callings. He settled here in 1819 and died in 1873.

Families generally had to provide themselves with salted beef and pork for use in summer, as there were no butchers in those days. Hunters were relied upon to bring in game during the season. A number essayed to supply this demand, not as a pastime, but as a business.

There was a pottery in these years, near the old forts, where useful wares were fabricated. James Adams and Abraham Kennedy were first and second in supplying this need. Their products were probably as good as that produced by the Indian nomadic tribes, but they were necessarily ages behind specimens made by the old small nations of civilized natives, and by their survivors of the present, which equal those of Greece.

Nathaniel Cary, Jr., was in later days the tailor.

Elihu Butler repaired timepieces and pulled teeth.

Franklin was even then a hive of industry, with work for all, symbolic of its future.

#### EARLY PRICES OF COMMODITIES

Trade was mostly the exchange of commodities—a very cumbersome way, and uncertain method, of doing business. Produce was low, manufactured articles were so high in price that they were beyond the reach of many. A rough axe forged by the blacksmith was \$6; calico, \$1 a yard; calico shirts, \$2.50; linen ditto, \$4.50; salt, 38 cents a pint, or 50 cents a quart; meal, 50 cents a gallon; bread, 10 cents a pound. The laborer receiving two dollars a day was fortunate. Brisk customers were the Indians; their credit was seldom impaired. They were allowed to take away a gun at \$25 to \$40, powder at \$2 a pound, and as much liquid refreshment as they could carry inside and outside, at 40 to 60 cents a quart. Whiskey was a current article of commerce at the stores, coming or going, but what would the copper-colored devotees of joy, or others, have done had they been confronted by a price for the staple per gallon equal to that prevailing now, a sum that would buy two barrels of flour, or a good suit of clothes, or as many woolen socks as a man could carry? There were not many boots in those days.

#### HOTELS

The hotels at this period were three: George Power kept one on Otter street, in a store-

building that was torn down many years ago. George McClelland was on the site later occupied by the "United States," and Col. James Kinnear, in the old brick building on the corner of West Park and Liberty streets, conducted a house famous in its day. Travelers considered it homelike and luxurious, seeking its comforts when visiting the town, or planning to halt there while passing through.

Later a hotel on the corner of Otter and Thirteenth streets was conducted by Lewis T. Reno, the father of Gen. Jesse L. Reno. Edward Pearce had a public house just west of the lower French creek bridge, and the inn of that genial host, Jeremiah Clancy, was on the corner of Elk and Thirteenth. Luke Turner was prominent as a hotel man later, as was also Lucius Pike. A noted hotel, too, on Liberty street flourished for a number of years under the management successively of Thomas Hulings, John Evans, and Arthur Robison. Time, the obliterator, has removed almost every trace of these old hostleries.

The "United States" is one of the oldest hotels now serving the public in Franklin. It supplies food and lodging for man and beast, and is largely patronized by those who have been accustomed to put up there for years.

The "Exchange" was a great favorite with the public for more than a generation. It has been closed for the last few years, and its rooms have been used for other than purposes of public entertainment.

The "McLure" was also regarded with favor by the public. It was recently closed and the building is now used for the display and sale of merchandise.

The "Alsace," now known as "The Park," is a beautiful building, finely situated, facing the parks in the center of the town. A goodly number of people make it their home, renting their rooms by the month and taking their meals at its restaurant. As a hotel it is conducted upon the European plan, and is in every way satisfactory to the public.

#### EARLY ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN

The following sketches copied from various sources picture the county town at different periods. First is an extract from a letter written in 1815 to a Pittsburgh paper:

"The village of Franklin is situated on the west bank of the Allegheny and the mouth of French creek and is distant from Pittsburgh 124 miles by water and by land sixty-eight miles. It is in latitude  $41^{\circ} 24' 43''$  north and  $2^{\circ} 50' 10''$  west longitude. The Allegheny

is navigable to Pittsburgh about seven months in the year for arks, keel and flat boats, and French creek is navigable to Meadville at high water not more than two months. The houses here are mean in appearance and there seems to be no sign of improvement. The people here are kind, and when not trading, employ themselves with the Indians in hunting and fishing. I have hope for the future, for there seems to be in the vicinity plenty of coal and iron. I doubt if there are more than one hundred people here, and they seem to be in doubt whether to stay or remove further west."

Levi Dodd came to Franklin in 1823. In his address, prepared for the fiftieth anniversary of the Franklin Presbyterian Sunday School (1874), he places the number of residents of 1823 at "about two hundred and fifty." He was one of the first teachers, or founders of the school, and since he mentions nearly every one of the number by name, his estimate is correct, undoubtedly. There were those present who could have revised his work, had it been necessary. His number shows a rapid growth during the eight years elapsing since the estimate of the pessimistic Pittsburgher.

#### FRANKLIN IN 1837

Franklin in 1837 is thus described by Isaac Harris in his Pittsburgh Business Directory: "The borough of Franklin is beautifully situated at the confluence of French creek and the Allegheny. . . . It has a population of 800; has nine stores; five taverns; two printing offices; three churches; an academy, courthouse and a jail. There are in the vicinity of the town one furnace, a forge, a gristmill and a sawmill. The French creek division of the Pennsylvania canal commences at this town, and is finished a distance of forty miles, and when completed to Erie will open navigation from the latter place to the Allegheny river, at Franklin. . . . In making the improvements on French creek, the State constructed two dams within a mile of Franklin; one is nine feet high, the other is sixteen and one half feet. These afford excellent water power, which could be applied to all kinds of manufacturing, and are worthy the attention of capitalists. Several other dams on French creek afford the same advantages. A daily line of stages runs from Pittsburgh, via Franklin to Erie; and a tri-weekly line from Philadelphia to Erie through the same place. The Waterford and Susquehanna turnpike passes through the town. A turnpike is also being made from Warren to Franklin, and will be

finished at an early period. This turnpike will intersect the one from Buffalo, N. Y., through Jamestown, to Warren; and will considerably diminish the distance from Buffalo to Pittsburgh. A bridge over French creek at Franklin was erected many years ago, and a company is now incorporated and organized and the amount of stock procured for building one over the Allegheny river. This bridge will be constructed in the coming year."

#### FRANKLIN IN 1850

In 1850, by the census, the population of the borough was 933. There were two churches, the Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal, Rev. S. J. M. Eaton being pastor of the former and Rev. Moses Hill of the latter. A. P. Whitaker was editor of *The Venango Spectator*, and E. S. Durban was editor of *The Advocate and Journal*. The physicians were N. D. Snowden and B. Gillett. The attorneys were Alexander McCalmont, James K. Kerr, R. S. McCormick, John W. Howe, James L. Myers, Edmond Snowden, Alfred B. McCalmont, N. R. Bushnell, Samuel Riddle, W. H. Lamberton and Edwin L. Wilson.

James Bleakley, S. L. Ulman, Robert Lamberton, C. H. Dale, William Raymond, James Bennett, Myron Park, George C. McClelland, Hunter and Butler, James Bryden, J. B. Nicklin, J. G. Lamberton, Josiah Adams and Samuel Bailey were the merchants.

Blanchard & Mills made fanning mills. Thomas Moore was in the saddle and harness business. Elliott and Epley were proprietors of the Franklin Foundry. N. Cary, M. Vandorn and Joseph S. Hooton were the tailors. J. P. Hoover was in the forwarding and commission business. Adam Webber was postmaster. A. B. Walker and George Grishaber were the blacksmiths. Andrew Bowman was the tanner and shoemaker. Andrew Dewoody was a hatter. J. B. Rowe was the house builder. B. Alexander and Levi Dodd were cabinetmakers. S. Turner, M. Henry and C. G. Evans were the tavern-keepers.

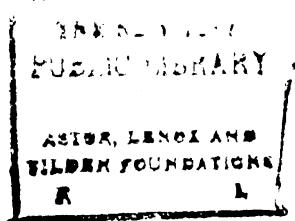
The borough was assessed \$59,487 for real estate; \$1,428, for horses and cattle; \$7,545, for trades and occupations; \$3,345, for offices and professions; \$21,675, for money at interest; and \$610, for pleasure carriages, a total of \$94,090.

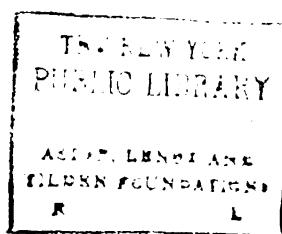
#### RATE OF GROWTH IN POPULATION

The list of property assessed in 1850, considering the low rate of valuation then in vogue, indicates an intelligent industry inspired by faith in the town's future. If a property list

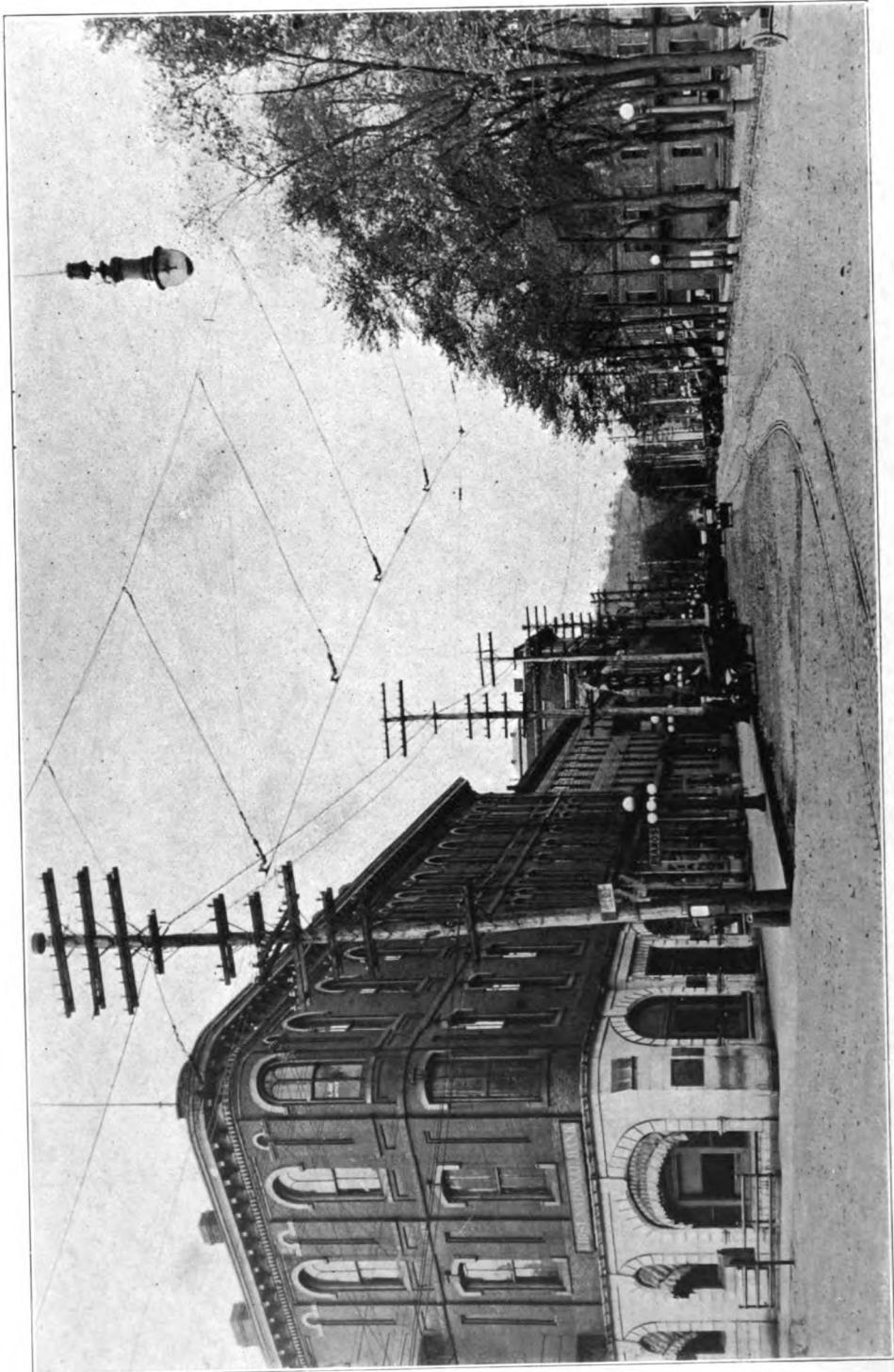


Franklin, Pennsylvania, October, 1918  
Thirteenth Street, Looking North





*Franklin, Pennsylvania, October, 1918*  
*Liberty Street, Looking West From Court House*



of 1800 could be found and compared, it would be interesting. An opinion prevails that Franklin grew very slowly during this period. Examine this notion briefly: Mrs. Irvine writes that she found five families here when she came in 1800, though she mentions six. Perhaps she included Abraham Selders in the Hulings family, since he had recently married Mr. Hulings' daughter. Five sons of Marcus Hulings, Sr., were pushing flatboats up the creek toward Perry's fleet in 1813, of whom the oldest was Marcus, Jr., then about forty-six years of age. The son, buried in 1797, aged twenty-seven years, was not the oldest, since for eight generations the first-born son had been named for his father. Those five brothers were all well grown boys in 1800. The families mentioned by Mrs. Irvine would number: Captain Fowler and wife, two; Colonel McDowell, wife, two; Edward Hale, wife, two daughters, four; Marcus Hulings, wife, seven children, including Selders and wife, nine; George Powers, wife, two; Judge Heron, wife, two daughters (one of whom was Mrs. Irvine), four; total, twenty-three, which is to be compared with a population of 933 in 1850.

A state or community which doubles its numbers in twenty-five years has a rapid growth. During the half century the nation as a whole multiplied its population by 4.36, doubling twice and over; the State increased 3.83 times; the county increased its population 16.2 times, doubling over four times, while Franklin multiplied its population by 40.56, doubling five times and adding an extra 199 to that. Taking the census of 1910, the county increased 3.08 times in the sixty years, while Franklin increased 10.46 times, accelerating its rate relative to that of the county. This is not a slow growth either actually or comparatively. Its population in 1890 was 6,231; 1900, 7,317; 1910, 9,767; July 1, 1918, 12,250. Modern Franklin is a model town, fitted with the conveniences of the twentieth century.

#### BOROUGH ORGANIZATION

Franklin at first was a part of Irwin township, that vast tract west and north of the Allegheny river. In 1806 the portion including the county seat, extending from the present northern boundaries of Irwin and Clinton to French creek and westward from the Allegheny to the county line, was organized as French Creek township. This arrangement continued till 1828, when Franklin became a borough. Even then it was only a small village

of 350 inhabitants, with the wilderness about it, almost entering its borders. The county contained good people, scattered over a space much larger than now. Over this area of poor roads the court at Franklin applied the law to problems not solvable by physical prowess or by the justices of the peace.

It was thought that the borough organization would be more effective in making needed improvements, in clearing the streets and parks of brush and surplus forest growths, than the township had been. The minutes of the borough fathers have been lost. One item is preserved by the *Spectator* of June 13, 1849. In May of that year, the twenty-first year of the borough, an ordinance was passed prohibiting the loading or discharge of freight from boats on Sunday; also prohibiting horses and hogs from running at large on the diamond, their former pasture. At nightfall in early June nine porkers were discovered "pursuing the ordinary avocations of pigs upon the diamond." The officers of the law, aided by a number of boys and dogs, made a descent upon the swine, and a line of march was formed toward the pound. Three were placed in pound, six escaped; of their subsequent history nothing further is known; all may have found their way to the proper barrels. The borough authorities were empowered to enclose the parks, which was finally accomplished in 1865. It was hoped that private enterprise would complete the work, but improvement under this plan was very little.

#### BOROUGH OFFICIALS

In the absence of records no complete list of the borough officers can be compiled; the following fragmentary data have been obtained from various sources:

1828—Burgess, John Broadfoot; constable, Robert Kinnear; council: John Singleton, J. R. Sage, Alexander McCalmont, John Galbraith, Myron Park, William Bennett.

1829—Burgess, George McClelland; second burgess, Myron Park; constable, Robert Kinnear; council: John Galbraith, Alexander McCalmont, J. W. Wood, William Raymond, John Singleton, J. R. Sage, Arnold Plumer.

1849—Burgess, F. W. Hunter; clerk, James K. Kerr.

1852—Burgess, A. P. Whitaker; council: Luke Turner, Miles W. Sage, Thomas H. Martin, George W. Brigham, Leonard Bunce.

1853—Burgess, A. P. Whitaker; council: Luke Turner, Miles W. Sage, Thomas H. Martin, George W. Brigham, Leonard Bunce.

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

1855—Burgess, A. Plumer; council: S. H. Marshall, J. Bleakley, J. Mayes, J. Bryden, T. H. Martin.

1856—Burgess, Samuel Hays; council: J. Bleakley, R. A. Brashear, Thomas Moore, Simeon H. Marshall, Myron Park.

1857—Burgess, W. P. Walker; council: W. C. Evans, C. M. Hoover, T. H. Martin, David Smith.

1860—Burgess, James Bleakley; council: T. Hoge, M. W. Sage, D. C. Plumer, W. P. Walker, F. D. Kinnear.

1861—Burgess, S. T. Kennedy; council: Hugh Hunter, Harvey Evans, C. M. Hoover, S. F. Bailey, C. H. Raymond.

1862—Burgess, G. E. Ridgway; council: R. S. McCormick, William Campbell, Charles Bowman, D. G. Dewoody, G. W. Brigham.

1867—Burgess, P. W. Raymond; council: Henry Dubbs, G. W. Brigham, F. W. Mitchell, R. S. McCormick, G. E. Ridgway.

The town, as noted, had a much more rapid growth during its boroughhood than that of the county. Various causes favored this: First, the completion of the Susquehanna turnpike, 1818; second, the extension of the canal in 1833; and the iron industry, following; but not till Drake's discovery of oil was its future greatness assured, as was also that of Oil City, and of the whole county.

## CITY ORGANIZATION AND OFFICIALS

Franklin was incorporated as a city April 14, 1868, since which date the following have served as mayors:

1868—T. A. Dodd \*  
 1869—Henry Dubbs \*  
 1870—C. M. Hoover  
 1872—C. W. Mackey  
 1873—Samuel B. Myers \*  
 1874—Thomas Hogue \*  
 1875—J. W. Lee \*  
 1876—W. S. Welsh \*  
 1877-78—W. R. Crawford \*  
 1879—J. C. Sibley  
 1880—W. R. Crawford \*  
 1881—George Maloney \*  
 1882-1883—George Allen \*  
 1884—George Maloney \*  
 1885-1886—Charles Miller  
 1887—W. J. Bleakley \*  
 1888—S. C. Lewis  
 1889—W. J. Bleakley \*  
 1890-1891—Robert W. Dunn \*  
 1892-1893—C. A. Myers \*  
 1894—John A. Wiley \*  
 1895—W. H. Forbes  
 1896—Bryan H. Osborne  
 1897—George B. Jobson  
 1898—James W. Rowland  
 1899—Thomas Algeo

1900-1901—Charles J. C. Miller  
 1902—S. G. Foster  
 1903—Dr. F. W. Brown  
 1904-1905—John R. Robertson  
 1906—Wm. J. McConnell \*  
 1907-1908—John P. Emery  
 1909-1912—Robert F. Glenn  
 1913-1917—Fred W. Brown

\* Deceased.

The government at present is administered by the following:

## CITY COMMISSION

Mayor and Department Public Affairs—John P. Emery.

Department Finance and Accounts—T. E. Osborne.

Department Public Safety—N. B. Myers.

Department Public Property—R. L. Satterwhite.

Department Streets and Public Works—T. S. Elliott.

## CITY OFFICERS

City Clerk—J. G. Crawford.

City Solicitor—A. B. Jobson.

City Engineer—John McK. Snow.

City Treasurer—J. E. Elliott.

Chief Fire Dept. and Street Commissioner—C. H. Brennan.

Chief Police Department—E. J. Bleakley.

Health Officer—Dr. C. H. Brown.

Plumbing Inspector and Asst. Health Officer—James Viele.

Superintendent Water Works—P. B. Hird.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief—E. J. Bleakley.

Patrolmen—L. E. Bell, Charles A. Gannon, H. H. Krotzer, George W. Dunkle, L. M. Rice, James S. Sutton.

Desk Sergeant—W. A. Shorts.

Police Justice—Vincent P. Bunce.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief—C. H. Brennan.

Assistant Chief—Leonard Babcock.

Driver Hook and Ladder—C. G. Graff.

## FIRE ALARM SIGNALS

There are fourteen fire alarm boxes, Game-well system, located at different points, serving all the districts of the city.

## LIBRARY

The Franklin Library Association has accommodations in the Hancock block, open from 2 to 5, and 7 to 9 p. m. The president

is Col. S. C. Lewis; vice president, Mrs. Robert McCalmont; secretary and treasurer, Mary E. Hancock; librarian, Mary Clarke; assistant librarian, Louise Hanna; directors, Clifford Barnard, Mrs. James Carmichael, Mary E. Hancock, Col. S. C. Lewis, Mrs. William J. Mullins, J. Howard Smiley, Robert McCalmont. This is a popular and growing institution. It has a choice collection of books, and valuable files of newspapers and magazines.

#### CEMETERIES

The Franklin Cemetery Association meets in the City building April 3d, 2 p. m. President, Robert McCalmont; secretary and treas-

Mallory, F. G. McIntosh, L. H. Colburn, George B. Woodburn, G. E. Glines, E. E. Hughes.

#### FRANKLIN HOSPITAL

This hospital was formally opened in 1903, the first patients being victims of an accident on the Eighth street bridge. The board of directors included: President, George Maloney; secretary and treasurer, O. D. Bleakley; Dr. Leadenham, Dr. Nicholson, Dr. McBride, Hon. J. C. Sibley and Col. S. C. Lewis.

The Women's Auxiliary was composed of the following members: President, Mrs. W. J. Mullins; vice presidents, Mrs. O. D. Bleakley, Mrs. Clarke Hays; secretary, Mrs. Fred



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, FRANKLIN, PA.

urer, O. D. Bleakley; superintendent, C. D. Phipps; board of managers, Robert McCalmont, O. D. Bleakley, S. C. Lewis, Robert F. Glenn, John Lamberton.

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cemetery, North Thirteenth street, is in charge of the priests of the parish.

Mount Zion Cemetery, Fox street, Rocky Grove. Secretary, B. Baer; treasurer, Joseph Levi.

The care given to the resting places of the dead shows that Franklin holds them in reverent remembrance.

#### BOARD OF TRADE

The Board of Trade, whose quarters are at No. 1246 Liberty street, meets annually the first Tuesday in February. Directors meet the first Monday after the 15th of each month, at 4:30 p. m. Directors: Boyd N. Park, D. D.

B. Black; treasurer, Mrs. Mary D. Campbell; Mrs. James McCutcheon, Mrs. S. G. Allen, Mrs. Fred Brown, Mrs. James Borland, Mrs. William Heathcote, Miss Effie Mason, Mrs. Ralph Mattern, Miss Harriet McDonald, Mrs. S. A. McGrath, Mrs. A. J. Sibley, Mrs. William Trunkey. The first matron was Miss Gertrude Moore, from the Bellevue Hospital, New York City, who had charge for five years. During this time the average number of patients was twelve.

Interest in the hospital idea became so general that the first plan, to build an Emergency Hospital only, was abandoned, and money was soon found to build and equip one of the finest small hospitals in the State. The Women's Auxiliary has practically the entire management, and the esteem in which their labors are held is notable.

The present officers are: President of Association, Gen. Charles Miller; board of

directors: President B. H. Osborne, D. D. Mallory, William J. Mullins, John R. Rieseman, Robert McCalmont, Harry Lamberton, Hon. J. C. Sibley; secretary-treasurer, D. D. Mallory, J. C. Kilgore; superintendent, Caroline M. Wilson.

#### LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

Under the care of the city government the fences around the parks were removed, the appearance of the streets improved steadily. On Sept. 4, 1882, a park commission was established, to consist of the mayor and four citizens, appointed by him with the approval of the council. This arrangement has resulted well for the fine domain which adds much to the pleasing appearance of the city, and to its wholesomeness.

The experience in obtaining water was varied. In early days the rivulets were utilized, followed by wells sunk in the ground to the water level below. Next springs were led in from the hill tops. Now an abundant supply of good quality is obtained from artesian wells drilled near French creek, a mile above the city limits.

Franklin has electric car, heating and lighting service by the same companies supplying Oil City and the surrounding communities. The cars connecting the two cities and all points reached by the lines, run every half hour in summer and hourly in winter. The car service has extended the building limits of the places reached, besides promoting fellowship and the spirit of cooperation.

In 1883 a city building was completed, adequate for the needs of many years, and which can be made sufficient for larger service as it is needed.

Of special importance was the creation of a board of health by city council in 1889. The ordinance also provides for the selection of a health officer.

Franklin merchants have ranked with the most progressive always. Good taste united with an understanding of the requirements of the community has resulted in success and satisfaction. The friendly rivalry of the large towns or cities in the county has made possible a still more complete offering of the finest and best goods in all departments of merchandise.

Under the commission form of government now prevailing the care of public property and of the health and safety of the citizens is in the hands of the commissioners, subject to

the approval of at least three. Whether this works out better or worse than the old ways, it certainly fixes definitely the responsibility for all public procedure.

In the other chapters of this work may be traced with more detail the progress of the towns and townships, how the small unknown county of a century ago came into the power of encircling the earth with useful machines, and led the nations in reducing the waste of friction and in the attainment of more light, more power. A glance into the past serves to brighten hope in the future.

#### III. EMLENTON BOROUGH

During the period when the iron industry flourished Emlenton prospered greatly. The depression that followed its decline was succeeded by the commercial importance which the discovery of oil produced. It became the third town in the county, and while it has not a large population it will be noted, by reference to other parts of this volume, that its fine spirit of enterprise has never been lost and its institutions hold high rank in the county.

Emlenton is one of the interesting villages along the Allegheny which has gained much from the oil industry and lost nothing thereby.

#### FIRST RESIDENTS

It was believed by former writers that the first settler, John Kerr, was a squatter. He cleared land for a log cabin between the mouth of Ritchey Run and the present site of the Pennsylvania Railroad depot. He gradually made improvements around his home and worked there until the idea dawned upon him that boating building stones to Pittsburgh would add to his means. History records that he was drowned on one of these trips. His family moving away, his cabin was taken over by John Cochran, who did not enjoy the life and moved to a tract located in what is now Richland township.

Joseph B. Fox, an Englishman, owned much land in the neighborhood. He was the founder of the town of Foxburg, four miles from Emlenton. He and Andrew McCaslin owned the town site of Emlenton when it was surveyed, and in compliment to Mrs. Fox, whose name was Emlen, the new venture was called Emlenton. Mrs. Fox never had cause to regret the association of her maiden name with the town. It grew and prospered in a natural

and wholesome way. The new citizens who came liked the promises it gave of life and comfort and sang its praises.

#### EARLY MERCHANTS

Andrew McCaslin was the first one to keep a store, and he also became a man of affairs in the county, once serving as sheriff, elected in 1832.

It is probable that McCaslin established his business in 1820. He had two large covered wagons on the road between Pittsburgh and Emlenton, in which his goods were conveyed. His trade extended twenty miles inland east of the river and ten miles on the west.

The next merchant was John Keating, who in spite of adverse circumstances demonstrated what industry and honesty can accomplish. He located in Emlenton in 1836, propelling his own canoe from Pittsburgh, carrying his goods. In 1846 he built a furnace near St. Petersburg, and at the time of his death, January, 1881, he left a landed estate of one thousand acres. In 1866 he was made associate judge of Clarion county, but he continued to take an active interest in the affairs of Emlenton.

William Canan, William Karnes and George Morgan were also early merchants. Brown, Phillips & Co., of the Kittanning Iron Works, in 1849 established the "Iron Store," of which J. C. Porterfield was the manager. This store was afterward continued by Porterfield, Teitsworth & Co., from August, 1857, to 1865, who were followed by Porterfield & McCombs, and was carried on for a number of years, becoming the oldest business house in the place.

Henry Allebach was the first jeweler at Emlenton, and Joseph Weller was the first tailor.

The ferry, which was the property of McCaslin, was managed by Andrew Solinger in 1834, in which year Jacob Truby succeeded him. Passengers and teams crossed the river on large flat boats pushed across by a stout pole in the hands of the ferryman. One day, as Mr. Truby was starting out, the pole became entangled in an obstruction. It was the body of a man, and his identity not being established he was buried by the county. A large rock on the bank near which the body was discovered is known as Dead Man's rock.

In 1828 the little village boasted of its first physician, N. D. Snowden, who remained until 1830, when he removed to Franklin.

The third house built in the village, in 1834,

belonged to Dr. James Gowe, and stood on the site of the "Moran Hotel." The Doctor was one of the first to buy lots of McCaslin. His third daughter, Keziah, was the first white child born in Emlenton. Subsequently Dr. Gowe became protonotary of Clarion county. Late in life he entered the ministry of the Methodist Church.

P. G. Hollister used the fourth building, which was erected in 1836, for a store room. In 1837 two houses were built—the "Valley Hotel" by Andrew Truby, and a frame building by Jacob Truby, his son. The next house was built in 1838 by Walter Lowrie. It was also on Water street. John Diem bought two lots on Main street in 1840 and became the first blacksmith in the place. Emlenton thus gradually grew to the proportions of a small village.

#### THE IRON INDUSTRY

There were twenty iron furnaces in operation as early as 1840, within twenty miles of Emlenton, most of which were east of the river. In connection with every furnace there was a store under the same management, at which the operators were paid in goods. When the river was navigable in the spring and fall the ironmasters received consignments by steamboat and Emlenton became an important point. Several steamboats were generally landing goods at the same time. In the course of a few hours the warehouses would be filled, and the adjoining streets piled up with hogsheads, casks, barrels and boxes. The warehouse proprietor acted as forwarding agent and consigned the freight to the furnaces in ponderous wagons, drawn usually by mules. During the summer months the town was quiet, giving the merchants an opportunity to reduce their stocks and prepare for the next shipments of country produce, while the furnace proprietors attended to the manufacture of pig-iron.

#### HOTELS

The town secured an advantage by these conditions which it retained for a long time, namely good hotels. Andrew Solinger was the first pioneer in this field. He kept a tavern in connection with the ferry, Jacob Truby succeeding also to this branch of his business. The "Valley House" was opened in 1837 by Andrew Truby and for many years it was the leading hotel of the town. In 1847-48 J. S. Haggerty built the hotel known as the "Ex-

change"—the "St. Cloud afterward occupied this site. Hugh Murrin established the "Union Hotel," which was owned by Hugh Keating in 1860. For a time it was occupied as a private dwelling, but was reopened as a hotel in 1868 by T. J. Moran and was afterward known as the "Moran House." This was burned in 1871. Another building was erected on the same site, in 1872, and is the third built on this ground. Alexander B. Crawford built a hotel in 1867 which was known as the "Crawford House." It was purchased by T. A. Moran, who conducted it until his death, Oct. 18, 1876. It was burned in 1877 and Mrs. S. C. Moran erected a building in 1878 which was known as "The Grand Central." She conducted the business successfully for several years. Under other management the hotel was carried on until a recent date. Of all these hotels, the "St. Cloud" is the only name surviving.

#### EMLENTON BRIDGE

The spirit of those forward-looking men of Emlenton is shown by their undertaking at an early date so great a work as the building of the Emlenton bridge. The company was organized May 2, 1854, with the election of Samuel M. Fox, president; and a board of directors consisting of John Keating, Joseph Weller, R. S. Porterfield, Henry Kohlmeyer, Samuel Anderson and J. J. McGinnis. Later J. F. Winsch was elected secretary and Joseph Weller was made first treasurer. The location was chosen and the contract was awarded to Daniel McCain, superintendent later of bridge construction in Allegheny county and a bridge builder of experience. The first structure was of wood, for which the timbers were obtained at Tionesta and floated down in rafts. The cord and arch pieces were sawed by Andrew and William Long, of Freeport. The other timbers were hewed by hand. On Oct. 13, 1856, the secretary of the company notified the public by the circulation of five dollars worth of handbills that the bridge was passable. It was a truss and arch structure, with two spans of 230 feet each. In the winter of 1856-57 a pier was injured by an ice flood, causing a loss of several thousand dollars. The bridge was destroyed April 10, 1853, and rebuilt during the summer of that year, by the Canton Wrought Iron Company, being open for travel Aug. 16th. Hugh Adair was elected president of the company in 1855; John Keating, May 6, 1856; A. W. Crawford,

May 2, 1881. The directors after the building of the iron bridge were as follows: A. W. Crawford, John A. Weller, John McComb, Samuel J. Knauss, A. B. Crawford, Levi Allebach; R. W. Porterfield was treasurer from May 1, 1855. During the first fourteen years of its history the bridge produced no dividends, but afterward it became valuable property. It is now owned by the county, having been purchased July 28, 1898, and consequently no tolls are collected. It was the first free bridge in the county crossing the Allegheny river.

#### THE EMLENTON AND SHIPPENVILLE RAILROAD

The Emlenton and Shippenville Railroad showed the progressive business enterprise of the citizens of Emlenton. The company was organized June 17, 1875, with James Bennett as president; J. W. Rowland, secretary; R. W. Porterfield, treasurer; B. F. Cribbs, Jacob Black, Dr. William R. Shippen, Marcus Hulings, H. C. Bradley, J. C. Porterfield, directors. The venture was not a success, but its projectors did not sustain any loss, as they had a favorable opportunity to sell out to a rival road from Foxburg to Clarion.

#### WATER SUPPLY

The Emlenton Water Company was organized May 14, 1877, under a charter granted Feb. 5, 1874. Abundant water of fine quality was obtained from the hills. The pressure in the mains was sufficient to protect all the buildings from fire by the use of hose. The first officers were as follows: President, J. J. Gosser; secretary, D. D. Moriarty; treasurer, J. M. Mitchell.

#### FIRE PROTECTION

The Hulings Hose Company, named in honor of Marcus Hulings, was organized Sept. 10, 1877. It has been maintained to the present time, by volunteers, and is still a sufficient protection from fires.

#### CITY HALL

The municipal building was erected in 1878. The contract was awarded to George Perryer, and the committee of the council in charge was composed of Peter Curry, S. J. Steinberg, and John Mitchell. The third story was built by Joseph Weller, and reverted to the borough in 1884.

The manufacturing interests have been treated in another portion of this volume.

## INCORPORATION

## BOROUGH OFFICIALS

The borough was incorporated by decree of the court of Quarter Sessions Jan. 27, 1859. The first election resulted in the choice of Henry Allebach as burgess, Joseph Weller, R. Colbert, A. B. Crawford, Elias Widle and Ebenezer Crawford as members of council. All the records were destroyed by fire on the night of Oct. 31, 1873, and it is impossible to ascertain who were officers during the intervening period up to then. Since that date we have record of the following:

1873—Burgess, S. Lowell; councilmen, J. J. Rupert, A. D. Gates, J. H. Camp, C. C. Middleton, B. F. Hamilton.

1874—Burgess, W. D. Crawford; councilmen, H. E. Bradley, G. W. Livingston, J. M. Wick, David Houser, J. K. Kuhns, Ebenezer Crawford.

1875—Burgess, August Schmuck; councilmen, C. H. Van Schaick, Joseph Weller, Emanuel Widle, Sebastian Kreis, H. E. Bradley, S. H. Crawford.

1876—Burgess, August Schmuck; councilmen, C. H. Van Schaick, Elizur Strong, Joseph Flynn, Joseph Weller, H. E. Bradley, D. D. Moriarty.

1877—Burgess, William Lusk; councilmen, H. C. Bradley, J. J. Gosser, Peter Curry, H. E. Bradley, S. J. Sternberg.

1878—Burgess, J. Brenner; councilmen, J. M. Mitchell, John Curry, T. J. Jamison, A. H. Crawford, Jr., C. Lewalter, S. Kreis.

1879—Burgess, H. E. Bradley; councilmen, J. M. Mitchell, S. H. Crawford, C. Lewalter, T. J. Jamison, Peter Curry, S. Kreis.

1880—Burgess, J. K. Kuhns; councilmen, J. H. Heasley, J. A. Crawford, J. B. Engle, J. A. Boozel, J. W. Shoemaker, A. J. Halderman.

1881—Burgess, A. M. Comstock; councilmen, Thomas Flynn, J. W. Shoemaker, J. A. Boozel, J. H. Heasley, J. R. Donnelly, H. L. Gearing.

1882—Burgess, A. M. Comstock; councilmen, J. R. Donnelly, J. M. Truby, Peter Curry, Thomas Taylor, J. H. Anchors, Frederick Roschy.

1883—Burgess, A. M. Comstock; councilmen, J. M. Mitchell, J. M. Martin, J. R.

Donnelly, Peter Curry, J. M. Truby, August Schmuck.

1884—Burgess, A. M. Comstock; councilmen, J. A. Crawford, A. J. Halderman, J. M. Mitchell, Joseph Flynn, H. E. Bradley, John McCombs.

From 1885, instead of electing the entire council each year, two members have been elected, to serve three years, unless a vacancy occurs, when more than that number may be chosen.

1885—Burgess, J. A. Crawford; councilmen, C. Lewalter, A. H. Crawford.

1886—Burgess, J. A. Crawford; councilmen, G. W. King, U. Sloan, Joseph Flynn.

1887—Burgess, J. A. Crawford; councilmen, J. M. Martin, H. E. Bradley.

1888—Burgess, B. F. Gault; councilmen, James Bennett, C. S. Kerr, C. C. Cooper.

1889—Councilmen, A. R. Newton, James Bennett.

1900-01-02—Burgess, M. Gouger; councilmen, 1900, H. B. Mitchell, James Bennett, C. E. Crawford, C. C. Cooper, G. M. Sheffer; 1901, Fred Roschy, H. J. Crawford, George Keil; 1902, C. F. Mault, B. F. Jamison, L. E. Weller, J. G. Lambertson.

1903-04-05—Burgess, G. M. Sheffer; councilmen, 1903, R. Messer, E. S. Weller, C. H. Hatton; 1904, George Keil, C. S. Kern, Fred Roschy; 1905, J. H. Campbell, J. G. Lambertson, C. F. Mault.

1906-07-08—Burgess, W. G. Gilmore; councilmen, 1906, B. F. Jamison, John Grunden, M. J. Glynn, W. C. McKee; 1907, B. F. Keefer, M. J. Glynn, G. M. Sheffer; 1908, J. R. Grimm, J. H. F. Campbell.

1909-10-11—Burgess, N. Mackin; councilmen, 1909, H. E. Shoemaker, H. M. Bennett, Joseph Grieff; 1910, George Hall, John W. Young; 1911, R. B. Adams, M. M. Shoemaker, G. M. Sheffer.

Changes in legislation relating to borough government resulted in the holding of no borough elections in 1912, 1914 and 1916, officials holding over in those years. The first election under the general act of 1915 was held in 1917, at the same time as the general election in November.

1913-15—Burgess, J. H. Rupert; councilmen, 1913, H. B. Mitchell, A. E. Bishop, G. A. Hughes, S. Messer; 1915-16, F. L. Giering (four years), F. H. Krear (four years), S. Messer (four years).

1917-18-19-20—Burgess, A. R. Newton;

councilmen, 1917, W. B. Jacobs (four years), D. M. Long (four years).

#### PRESENT CONDITIONS

Emlenton at the present day is one of the most attractive towns on the Allegheny. Nature has been kind. From the top of the highest hill a view unsurpassed is spread out. Delightful drives are possible, there is no need

for the citizens to go far from home to enjoy lovely scenery. Emlenton has merchants who are progressive and successful. They make reasonable the slogan of the day, "Buy at home." The social life of the town is characteristic. Hospitality prevails, and those who have moved to other places return to engage in the social life which is peculiar to a village where all are known to each other, and who have the same interests.

### CHAPTER XXIII

#### TOWNSHIPS AND BOROUGHS

##### IRWIN TOWNSHIP—MECHANICSVILLE—BARKEYVILLE—ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP—SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP—RENO

We present the record of the various townships of Venango county in the order of their formation.

##### IRWIN TOWNSHIP

Irwin township has the distinction of being older than Venango county. While that part of Venango west and north of the Allegheny river was included in Allegheny county it was called Irwin township. On Oct. 6, 1800, the court of Quarter Sessions of Crawford county erected three townships from this territory, Irwin, Allegheny and Sugar Creek, Irwin comprising all that part south of French creek and west of the Allegheny river. At March sessions, 1806, a commission appointed by the court of Quarter Sessions of Venango county to divide the county into townships formed Irwin with its present northern boundary, and the erection of Clinton in 1855 reduced this township, originally embracing the territory now included in the sixteen townships north and west of the Allegheny, to its present limits. It is at the southwest corner of the county, bordering on the counties of Mercer and Butler.

*Pioneers.*—In 1796 Adam Dinsmore, a native of Ireland, settled upon land later owned by C. C. Hoffman, and Henry Crull located upon the farm where Hezekiah Mays afterward resided. Mr. Crull subsequently kept the first hotel in the township. In 1797 Isaac McMurdy and his son George, of Huntingdon

county, Pa., settled a tract of land on the line of Butler and Venango counties, the larger portion of the land lying in Venango. They cleared a small patch, and after planting it with potatoes returned to their old home. Coming out again in the fall, they dug the crop and planted wheat. In the spring of 1798 Isaac brought out his family and made a permanent settlement. In 1797 Richard Monjar, a native of Maryland, settled upon the land long in the possession of his son Surrena, a 400-acre tract where he made the first clearing and built a log house. He was a shoemaker, and the first of his trade to settle in the township. He died about 1832, his wife, Elizabeth (Ghost), surviving until 1867. Their children were: Mary, Francis, Christina, Sarah, Barbara, George K., Samuel B., Surrena and Philip G. E. Hayes Monjar, son of Surrena, now has the property.

Another early settler was Thomas Bullion. His birthplace is unknown, but he came here from Maryland, according to the best authorities in 1797-98. He made a settlement upon the land where Walter Hoffman afterward lived, and built a small distillery upon his farm which he operated for a number of years. It was related by some who knew him that he was "owl-eyed," being able to distinguish hardly anything during daylight, but with sight so keen at night that he could see distinctly the smallest objects. Late in life he married Nancy Kelso, but he left no descendants, and at his death his property passed into the hands of a

nephew, James Kelso. The great Bullion oil district, Bullion post office, a school and a small run were named in his honor.

In 1798 William Davidson came from Huntingdon county, Pa., and secured a 400-acre tract, his homestead coming into the possession of his grandson, Isaiah McDowell. He was of Irish extraction and a native of Huntingdon county, where his wife, Jane (McConohue) was also born. Mr. Davidson and one son, Patrick, were members of Capt. Hugh McManigal's company, which went to the defense of Erie in 1813. Mr. Davidson was one of the original members of Amity Presbyterian Church, organized about 1800, and served as an elder for many years. He was also one of the early constables, and met his death while performing his duties as such, being shot and killed by a man named Scott upon whom he was serving a warrant of arrest. Mr. Davidson was the grandfather of thirty-four children, who scattered over eight States of the Union, and none of his name is left in the township.

About the time of Davidson's arrival came also Jonathan Morris, a native of Lancaster county, Pa., and the Ross and Wanders families. Jonathan Morris had the following children: John, William, James, Betsey, Rachel, Pattie (who married Washington Eakin), Reuben and Jane (who married Milo Welton).

In 1799 Adam Dinsmore induced William and Hugh McManigal, John Crain and David Martin to locate in Irwin township. All were natives of Ireland and had first settled in Mifflin county, this State. Hugh McManigal had command of a company from this county at Erie in 1813. He and his brother at one time owned some eight hundred acres here, William settling on the land now owned by the Lattshaws. John Crain settled upon the land now in the possession of the descendants of John J. Kilgore, and David Martin on the land where his grandson Joseph Martin lived until his death in 1917, his son John now occupying it. He took up 400 acres, and is the only one of this group now represented by descendants in the township, where a number of them now reside. Martin was a weaver by trade, and in his log cabin wove many yards of cloth for the early settlers and their families. In Ireland he married Nancy Ramsey, and his family consisted of eight children: John, James, Polly (married George McMurdy), Nancy (married John Sheilds), Jane (married William Sheilds), Betsey (married Oliver Waldron), Rosie (married Joseph Osborne) and Pattie

(married James Mitchell). The parents died on the old homestead.

Edward McFadden, a native of Ireland, first settled in Luzerne county, Pa., came to Irwin township a short time prior to 1800, locating upon the land now belonging to the descendants of Maj. John Phipps; his children were William, John, Michael, Charles, Sarah and Mary. William Adams settled here in 1800; Robert Jones, Moses Bonner and Robert Burns, in 1802; and John Bullion, a brother of Thomas Bullion, in 1803. None of them but William Adams have descendants in the township at present. William Baker arrived from Westmoreland county, Pa., in 1805, and his posterity still reside in the township. The same year brought William Robinson, who settled the land that passed into the hands of Henry Stevenson, who sold it to John Ayers. It is related that a Mormon preacher named Snow came to Irwin township in 1837, and among his converts were Henry Stevenson and several daughters and a man by the name of David McKee, these two and their families accompanying Snow to Salt Lake City.

Joseph Allen, who made a settlement in 1813, coming from Penn's Valley, Center Co., Pa., was the ancestor of the Allens of Irwin township.

John J. Kilgore, who came in 1815, purchased two 400-acre tracts, one of which he traded for a horse. His father, who settled in Mercer county, Pa., in 1800, was one of a family of twenty, nineteen sons and one daughter, children of a minister of Cumberland county, Pa., whose family settled there prior to the Revolutionary war. It was related by the elder Kilgore that his father used to say that he had nineteen sons and one daughter, but each of his boys had one sister. In June, 1817, owing no doubt to a scarcity of the necessities of life, for at this period Irwin township was but a wilderness, John J. Kilgore and two companions went to Franklin, hired a canoe, and paddled down the river to Pittsburgh, where they bought a load of provisions, on the return journey pushing the canoe up the stream with poles. They made the trip in ten days, during which time they slept but one night under a roof. Game was abundant in those days. In 1819 there was a heavy fall of snow, and Mr. Kilgore's son related that his father in company with his hired man killed sixteen deer in one day.

In 1830 the tide of emigration set in, the land was rapidly cleared up, and Irwin was developed to compare favorably with any township in the county. It is one of the best agri-

cultural districts in the county, with undulating surface and fertile soil, drained by the headwaters of Scrubgrass creek and its tributaries. Rich coal deposits lie beneath the surface.

*Taverns.*—The first hotel in Irwin township was a log structure, erected about 1800 by Henry Crull. A man by the name of Knowles succeeded Crull, and after him it was owned in turn by Olds, Jones and Hugh Cochran, at whose death Hezekiah Mays acquired the property and ran the house for many years. The log building was torn down after a few years and replaced by a frame house, which gave way in time to the substantial residence of Mr. Mays. Located at Mays' Corners, on the Pittsburgh and Franklin road, in the days of the stage lines it was one of the stations where changes were made.

George McMurdy also built one of the early taverns, in 1812, and in connection with the hotel operated a distillery adjoining.

About 1849 Robert Allen of Butler county built the brick hotel on the Pittsburgh and Franklin road just north of the limits of Barkleyville, and ran a store in connection with the hotel, which subsequently passed into the hands of a Mr. McKelvey.

The "McCloskey House" in Mechanicsville was built about 1850 by Michael McCloskey.

The hotels located on the Pittsburgh-Franklin road passed away soon after the stages did.

*Mills.*—The first gristmill erected in Irwin township was built by John Crain about 1805, on the north branch of Scrubgrass creek, about one and a half miles east of the residence of A. J. Kilgore. In 1815 it passed into the hands of John J. Kilgore, who ran it for a number of years and then sold it to George Eagles, who removed it to Sandy Lake, Mercer county.

In 1839 John Gilmore and Thomas Martin erected a gristmill on the headwaters of the north branch of Scrubgrass creek. It was a log structure with undershot wheel, and furnished with two sets of buhrs of native stone. After the original owners had operated it a short time, it passed into the hands of a man named Barnes, and subsequently was purchased by Thomas Thornberry. It was torn down in 1849, and the mill known as the Gilmore mill was built by Thomas Thornberry and Philip Surrena. In 1857 Solomon Thorn purchased Thornberry's interest, and in 1863 Surrena sold his share to John Kilpatrick. In 1866 William King bought Kilpatrick's interest, and was bought out in 1868 by Alexander Gilmore, Gilmore and Thorn running the mill

until 1885, when the latter's interest was purchased by Amos Gilmore. He was succeeded by L. B. Gilmore.

The mill known as Walter's mill, at the headwaters of Wolf creek, was built in 1840 by John Gilmore and Thomas Williams. It had an overshot wheel furnished with native buhrs. At Gilmore's death it passed into the hands of David Walter.

Several sawmills have been erected in the township, but have long since passed out of use. One stood upon the McMurdy farm, one close to the site of the Walter mill, and another upon the land owned by John Latchaw.

*Population.*—In 1870 Irwin township had a population of 1,489; 1880, 1,584; 1890, 1,396; 1900, 1,262; 1910, 1,278.

*Villages.*—The site of Mechanicsville (Wesley post office) was originally part of the land that belonged to John Ross, a tract of four acres. It is not known whether John Ross gave it to his son, but about 1840 Ayers Ross, a son of John Ross, built a blacksmith shop and a log cabin which were the first buildings erected inside the limits of the village. Within a short time John Bryan erected a wagon shop and a log house. The first merchant was J. P. Billingsley. John Conrad soon came and engaged in shoemaking. Dr. Boyd was the first physician to locate in the town. The first postmaster was D. W. Henderson. In 1850 Thomas Galloway purchased the Ross farm and built a cheese factory in the suburbs. The first hotel was built in 1850 by Michael McCloskey, who was its landlord for many years. Soon after the "McCloskey House" was built the village grew, and at one time supported four general stores. During the last few years many of its former residents have departed, and the place has been ravaged by fire. The first schoolhouse erected within the limits of the village was built in 1870, and the church in 1889. The present population places Wesley among the lesser pioneer settlements.

Barkeyville is situated in the southern part of the township. In 1850 Henry Barkey opened a general store at this location, and the following year formed a partnership with Abraham Hunsberger. Shortly after several parties who owned land on the main road surveyed a few lots. The store of the above mentioned firm was the first building erected in what soon became known as Barkeyville; then Michael Liken erected a frame house there and engaged in shoemaking; Rev. Abraham Raynor, who was called to the pastorate of the Church of God, next built a frame house; and Hugh Hasson built the first blacksmith shop.

Mr. Barkey, in connection with his partner, then purchased the land on both sides of the road within the limits of the present village and laid it out in lots. Abraham Hunsberger was the first postmaster. The town is now on the rural route from Harrisville, Butler county. After Mr. Barkey's retirement from the business, in 1885, Mr. Hunsberger continued his association with it until his death, in 1902, and his son Charles F. Hunsberger succeeded him. There are now three general stores, and the village is surrounded by a live community. In close proximity to oil territory, the little village is keeping up in the general progress. On the edge of the town are located the Church of God and the Barkeyville Academy. Some of the best people of the county received their education at the academy, which has added considerable prestige to the town.

Nectarine is a four corners three miles west of Clintonville, with one store. It is served by rural free delivery from Harrisville.

#### ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP

Allegheny township originally included all that part of Venango county north and west of the Allegheny river and east of Oil creek, and was one of the three townships erected in 1800. It was reduced to its present limits in 1866 by the formation of Oil Creek township and the annexation of the eastern part of Venango county to Forest county.

**Pioneers.**—One of the earliest settlements in the county was that of Pithole. What attracted settlers to this region, distant from any of the traveled routes or water highways which penetrated the wilds of western Pennsylvania, is difficult to determine. The Holland Company offered one hundred acres of land to anyone who would make a settlement thereon, and thus probably many were induced to locate in a country which they had never seen, and which often proved disappointing. The larger number of those who settled here at a very early date removed to other localities after a brief struggle, leaving no record of themselves and very little evidence of their residence. One such was Alexander McElhaney, who came from Center County, Pa., in 1796, but was impelled to go back within a brief period by the alarming probability of Indian hostilities. Several years later he returned, but in a short time removed to Sandy Creek township, where his descendants are still to be found.

Three brothers, Thomas, John and James Dawson, came from eastern Pennsylvania to

the southwestern part of Allegheny township when the surrounding country was a wilderness. Thomas was the only one who remained in the township (he and James appearing on a tax list of 1805), where he became a farmer of comparative wealth and prominent in local affairs. The family was of Scotch-Irish descent and actively identified with Methodism in this section. There is a numerous connection of the name in Forest county.

The tax list referred to also contains the names of Hugh and Michael McGerald, whose land was about midway between the Warren and Dunham roads.

In 1803 Isaac Connely located in the township half a mile from the Warren road, at some distance from any route of travel used at that time, and one of the first births in the township was that of his son George W. (afterward prothonotary of the county), Sept. 3, 1804. Isaac Connely was born in Ireland in 1747, lived in Philadelphia during the Revolution and there kept the "Black Horse Tavern," a well known hostelry, at the close of the war moving to Center county and thence to Allegheny township. He was a man of extensive reading, and at one time a teacher of Latin and German. He married three times, and died July 4, 1823. A clump of trees in a field on the Alfred Lamb farm is pointed out as marking the location of the Connely burying ground.

Among the pioneers of Allegheny were also two Revolutionary soldiers, Aspenwall Cornwell and David Dunham. Cornwell came from New York City, and made the trip hither with his family by way of the Allegheny river to Holeman's Ferry, Forest county, arriving at their destination in August, 1819. The Cornwell farm was on the Warren road, and Aspenwall Cornwell, Jr., lived there many years after the death of his father, selling out when oil was discovered and removing to the West. The property was later owned by E. Van Wyck.

David Dunham came from Fabius, Onondaga Co., N. Y., in 1819 purchasing 288 acres of land east of Pleasantville, to which he moved with his family two years later, traveling by sleigh to Orleans Point, and thence by boat down the Allegheny river to Holeman's Ferry. His son Edwin Dunham, who was born in 1800, came here two years before the rest of the family, married a daughter of Aspenwall Cornwell, Sr., and at the time of his death was one of the oldest residents of the township.

Capt. Ebenezer Byles, who settled the Clark farm, arrived in 1825 from Hartford, Conn.,

where he had been sheriff. His military title was acquired by service in the war of 1812. Of his four sons, Dwight, Matthew, Cornelius and Edwin, Dwight was a farmer in this township; Edwin, a dentist at Pleasantville; Matthew and Cornelius became doctors, the former at Utica, this county, the latter at Fredonia; Mercer county.

The next year came John Tennent, a lineal descendant of Rev. Gilbert Tennent, founder of the Log College in Bucks county, Pa. He was from Colchester, New London Co., Conn., and made the journey by way of the Erie canal, for the most part then through a wilderness, the trip from Albany to Buffalo taking two weeks. There he embarked on a vessel for Erie, whence he completed his travels by wagon. He had secured six hundred acres of land and brought with him his wife and two daughters, one of the latter being Mrs. James McClintock, who lived in Oil City. The frame house built within a few years after the family arrived is now one of the oldest dwellings in the township.

John Lamb, a native of Center county, Pa., became a resident of Venango county in 1827 and established the first tannery in the township (and the only industry of the kind there), also engaging in lumbering in Forest county, and in merchandising. It was through his efforts that Lambs post office was obtained for the convenience of the neighborhood, and it was kept at his house.

In 1831 Jacob Blanck, a native of New York City, purchased a thousand acres of land in Venango county, removing his family here the following year. He lived to the age of ninety, dying in 1877. Thomas Mitchell, James McCasland, Robert Ensign and William Haworth may also be mentioned among the pioneers of the township. The latter had a distillery on his farm at an early date and operated it for many years.

*Mills.*—The first mill between Cherry run and Tidioute was built by Alpheus Jones prior to 1833 on Pithole creek. The machinery was improved by John Haworth, who was proprietor for a time and sold the property to Samuel W. Stewart. The second mill was built by Nelson Tyrrell on Pithole creek, below the mouth of Dunham run.

*Population.*—In 1870 the township had 1,485 inhabitants; 1880, 1,043; 1890, 536; 1900, 406; 1910, 310.

The variation in population from 1,485 in 1870 to 310 in 1910 contains a strong hint of the history of this abandoned township. Many, pumpers and oil gaugers, and owners of the oil

rights remaining, estimate that the population in 1920 will not exceed one half the number returned at the census of 1910. The township comprises approximately twenty-eight square miles area, or 17,900 acres. Its surface is rough and rocky, and was covered with a dense growth of forest trees, sheltering a great variety of wild animals. After cutting down the trees, and burning them, the settlers found a soil well interspersed with rocks, which had to be blasted to reduce them to movable sizes and then hauled to one side. It must have been a struggle to support a scant existence here. A number came, stayed a short time, and went leaving barely a trace of their claims or improvements after their departure. Some settlers even built temporary houses which they abandoned to the newcomer. Yet many came who with Spartan courage remained, and conquered homes in this almost unknown wilderness. So far as soil is concerned it is doubtless the poorest in arable land of any township in the county. From 1826 to 1865 this region had a slow but steady growth. Then the earth opened, disclosing untold wealth under the feet of the hard-working pioneers. From 1865 to 1875 the owners of the land were busy getting the wealth which had lain unsuspected so long—since the rocks were formed—a few hundred feet below. Many acquired fortunes and departed. Others lost all they had and also departed. Three churches, and as many schoolhouses, were left to blacken and rot by the roadsides. No church building is now within its limits. One may travel along the roads for miles without seeing an inhabited house. Leaving Pleasantville, going southeast one and a half miles, the "Bean farm" is seen, with a fairly good, very old house, one of the first built in the township, now owned by Mr. Ferrel of Pleasantville. Two miles farther in the same direction the former lively town of "Cash Up" is reached; now consisting of one shanty occupied by an oil pumper. Several little cemeteries along the roads, some in clumps of native trees, others near decaying timbers, of a church possibly, some with headstones, others with none, record a silent story. It is hoped that the settlers, who were as brave and good men and women as any coming to this county, are somewhere in happier surroundings.

#### SUGAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

Sugar Creek was one of the three townships of Venango county founded by the Crawford county court Oct. 6, 1800, and at that time took

in the extensive territory in the county north of French creek and the Allegheny river and west of Oil creek. In 1806 Plum and Cherry-tree townships were formed from the northern part of this area, and Oil Creek from its southeastern part, but the latter was attached to Sugar Creek for government purposes and never sustained more than a nominal existence. On Nov. 26, 1832, the court of Quarter Sessions was petitioned to form several new townships from the territory, and Richard Irwin, John Anderson and Aaron McKissick; to whom the matter was referred, reported favorably to the erection of a new township from the contiguous portions of Sugar Creek and Allegheny, and another from the central part of Sugar Creek, the remaining parts of the respective townships to retain their original names.

The largest stream in this territory is Sugar creek, which flows into French creek not far from the line of Canal township, receiving the waters of Luper's run, Foster's run and Decker's run also. Two Mile run drains a large territory on the east, and between these two principal streams is Patchel run, a branch of French creek. Brannon run and Shaffer run empty into the Allegheny east of Two Mile run. In the valley of Sugar creek there are some fine farming lands, and the well known Franklin oil district, described fully in another chapter, is located principally within the limits of this township.

*Pioneers.*—The following were taxed in Sugar Creek in 1808: Robert Arthur, James Arthur, Joseph Allen, John Andrew, Arthur Boon, John Armstrong, Francis Buchanan, James Brown, Andrew Bowman, John Brown, James Bowls, David Blair, Robert Beatty, Nathaniel Cary, John Carter, Francis Carter, Thomas Carter, Hugh Clifford, William Cousins, Samuel Cousins, William Crane, Martin Clifford, Philip Cutshall, Thomas Cousins, William Crozier, Peter Dempsey, Yost Deets, Joshua Davis, Alexander Fowler, John Foster, Ross Foster, James Foster, Patrick Gordon, David Gilmore, Charles Gordon, James Gordon, James Henry, William Hayes, John Greer Hayes, John Hayes, Francis Halyday, Robert Huston, William Hood, William Harrison, James Johnston, Alexander Johnston, William Johnston, George Kain, John Kelly, Philip Kees, Hamilton McClintock, Francis McClintock, Robert McClintock, Alexander McCormick, James Mason, John McCalmont, William McMaster, James McCune, George Murrin, John McDonald, David Martin, James McCurdy, Dennis Pursell, James Patchell, Ambrose

Rynd, Jonah Reynolds, William Reed, Samuel Ray, Ebenezer Roberts, Jacob Rice, Matthias Stockbarger, Jean Story, George Sutley, Robert Shaw, Hugh Shaw, Jacob Sutley, Christian Sutley, James Shaw, William Shaw, Abraham Selders, Luther Thomas, William Thompson, Isaac Walls, John Whitman, Jacob Whitman, John Wilson.

At that time the township extended westward from Oil creek to the Crawford county line and north so as to include a large part of what is now Oakland and Jackson townships, hence the larger number of those whose names appear in the above list resided beyond the present limits of Sugar Creek. What is now the Third ward of Franklin was also one of the earliest settled parts of this township, and the record of its settlement has been included in the chapter on that city.

Among the earliest pioneers was Jacob Whitman, who had previously lived in the Susquehanna valley. He came to this county with three sons, John, Jonathan and William, John, the eldest, settling here on a tract of one hundred acres later known as the McLaughlin farm. He married Jane Davis, and Jacob, the eldest of their seven children, was the progenitor of the present generation of the family. John Whitman was a boatman, and when the naval stores for the equipment of Perry's fleet were transported up French creek he assisted in that work. His brothers are also thought to have been boatmen.

In 1796 Ebenezer Roberts settled upon the farm where the County Infirmary and Work House were established in 1870, and was probably the earliest resident in that part of the Sugar Creek valley. His early neighbors there were Samuel Hays, who lived near the Canal township line; Darius and William Mead, sons of the founder of Meadville and brothers-in-law of William Moore, first prothonotary of Venango county; John Hathorn, who came from Kentucky and had the farm later owned by Robert L. Cochran, and the Cousins family, whose head had been in the military service at Fort Venango and remained in the county when that garrison was disbanded.

Augus McKinzie, another pioneer, was born at Inverness, Scotland, in 1736, coming to America after he was married. He left Baltimore for Pittsburgh soon after landing there, and after a residence of about eight years in this country arrived in Venango county, settling upon land purchased from Oliver Ormsby, of Pittsburgh. It was situated in the Sugar creek valley adjoining the Jackson township line, and formed part of an extensive body of

level land called "the prairie." Mr. McKinzie died Aug. 22, 1846, at the age of one hundred and ten years; his wife, Christina, died Feb. 27, 1851, aged ninety-three years. They are buried at the Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church. They reared four children: Alexander, who was two years old when the family arrived at Baltimore; John, who was an energetic business man and served as justice of the peace; William, who carried on the lumber business on the Allegheny river; and Mrs. Elizabeth Frazier.

William Thompson, born June 7, 1777, died in April, 1823, was the first settler on a tract of land purchased in 1837 by Henry Homan and Henry Snyder. Homan, a native of Maryland, of German descent, continued to live in the township until his death in 1872; he was the father of Thomas R. Homan, who was elected county commissioner in 1878.

Thomas Wilson originally owned and first settled the Valley Furnace farm, and the land on the opposite side of the creek was the property of the Rodgers family at an early date. A numerous family of the name of Crain lived on the high ground east of Valley Furnace.

The locality on the old Cooperstown road known as Bowman's Hill took its name from a numerous family, one of whose members was Andrew Bowman, sheriff of the county and a prominent citizen of Franklin.

In the year 1803 the McCalmonts came to Franklin. How much this meant may be judged from their association with the history of the county. A full account of the family also appears in the biographical volume of this work.

William Shaw, the earliest settler on the Dempseytown road, was from Center county, and acquired property here before 1808, the land that he settled being now known as the Deets farm. One of his sons was a pioneer in Cornplanter township.

The old hotels on the Meadville turnpike were essential institutions in their day. There was one half a mile east of Sugar Creek, conducted by a man named Dinsmore, James McClelland and others before it passed into the ownership of James M. Russell, who carried it on for some years. The other, two and a half miles from Franklin, was owned by Andrew Webber.

*Early Industries.*—In 1846 John McKinzie built a mill on Sugar creek two miles below Cooperstown which was enlarged at various times. A later proprietor was Francis McDaniel.

Valley Furnace was a flourishing establishment from 1846 to 1852.

*Population.*—In 1850 Sugar Creek township had 875 residents; 1870, 1,656; 1880, 1,923; 1890, 2,349; 1900, 2,835; 1910, 3,903.

*Villages.*—Reno, a little town of three hundred population reached by the Erie and New York Central railroads, lies on the north bank of the Allegheny river about the same distance from both Franklin and Oil City. It was the terminus of the Reno, Oil Creek & Pithole railroad during the brief period that line was operated. Hugh Clifford, an Irish Catholic and a soldier of the war of 1812, was the first settler in the locality, and his right, acquired by settlement and improvement, was transferred in 1817 to Joel Sage, who obtained a patent in 1836. The land was successively occupied by Robert Alcorn, Andrew Howe and Joseph Shaffer, who purchased it in 1836 and remained in possession until the oil excitement. The Reno Oil & Land Company, organized at New York in December, 1865, and reorganized under different names at various times, was eventually succeeded by the Reno Oil Company, which with the exception of a few lots acquired the site of the village and a considerable tract of land adjoining, and adhered strictly to its policy of not selling land, hence the place did not grow rapidly. A couple of stores, a cooperage, a mill, and two refineries have done a prosperous business there. The two refineries and the barrel works (operated as the Pennsylvania Cooperage Company) are now owned by Hon. A. L. Confer, of Oil City, who originally established the Empire Oil Works there in 1879. He also acquired a tract of land suitable for building lots, which he has offered to the eighty or more workmen in his refineries and cooperage on easy terms, with advances to assist them in building. Probably a score of attractive houses have been built by his workmen in the last few years. Lots are also offered on long-term monthly payments by the realty department of the Oil City Trust Company, and until the war stopped operations many lots had been sold and houses of a good class were building. The Wanango Country Club has a beautiful house and complete golf links here, members joining from Oil City and Franklin. The local soil is also very good, and has been utilized for truck gardening with success a number of years, but the demand for building lots has done away with most of the market gardens. One remains, devoted to flower culture. However, there is still a good deal of land, hundreds of acres, available for gardens or homes. All vegetables and fruits

grow well here. There is plenty of pure spring water.

This seems an ideal place for living. The north bank of the river, sloping gently from the top to the water below, affords room on its deep, rich soil, flooded with sunshine, for a thousand homes. Through hundreds of thousands of years the gentle fingers of the river were laying the soil for the gardens to come, rich, deep, sandy loam, such as every gardener who has worked all his life in sticky clay has looked for, often in vain. This spot is nearly two miles in length, probably three fourths of a mile wide, embraced by the protecting arm of the river giver, and looks toward the south and the setting sun. Reno is now having a steady growth. A new brick school houses three schools at present, with space for more, the number of pupils indicating from five hundred to six hundred patrons. There is a Methodist Church with a cemetery near by, with headstones bearing the names of some early settlers. Over much of its area Venango county impresses a stranger as an unsettled country; and yet it abounds in ruins, abandoned farms, old houses with underbrush growing up to the hingeless doors, rose bushes straggling over the lots—"wild" roses again from the self-sown seed, some pink roots which have survived somehow. Sometimes old-fashioned flowers lift up starved, pinched faces, and carnip, brought by the pioneers from the East, is found almost everywhere. Reno is in marked contrast to all this. It has no ruins. Its apple

trees have not been choked by the encroaching forests. It is a promising place, destined to grow into a beautiful town. It is a pleasure to notice its presence.

Rocky Grove is a village of fifteen to eighteen hundred population, with street car connection to Franklin, one mile distant, and will probably soon become a part of that city. It has several stores and churches. It is composed largely of the homes of workers in the Eclipse refinery.

Eclipse is a station on the New York Central railroad, simply a stop at the Eclipse refinery, accommodating several owners of places near by. It has mail service from Franklin.

Wyattville, in the northwestern part of the township, served by rural free delivery from Franklin, contains a few scattered houses.

Galloway (formerly Fee post office, but now on a rural delivery route from Franklin) was named from the owner of the farm upon which it was built. During the first development of the heavy oil district there was quite a village at this point, but it has almost entirely disappeared. Two churches continue to bear the local name, which still retains popular significance.

Sugar Creek, in the southwestern part of the township, is a station on the Erie road and had a post office until the present system was inaugurated, being now served by the rural free delivery from Franklin. The county poorhouse is near by, situated along French creek, about four miles west of Franklin.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### TOWNSHIPS AND BOROUGHS (Continued)

**SCRUBGRASS TOWNSHIP—FRENCH CREEK TOWNSHIP—UTICA BOROUGH—POLK BOROUGH—RICH-LAND TOWNSHIP—CHERRYTREE TOWNSHIP—THE FIRST OIL WELL—THE BENNINGHOFF ROB-BERY—PLUM TOWNSHIP—SUNVILLE—CHAPMANVILLE—DIAMOND**

#### SCRUBGRASS TOWNSHIP

A commission was appointed at March sessions, 1806, to divide the county into townships, and reported in favor of the erection of Scrubgrass with the following boundaries: "Beginning at the southeast corner of Irwin township, thence by the county line east to the Allegheny river, thence up the same to the south boundary of Sandy Creek township,

thence by the same westwardly to the northeast corner of Irwin township, thence by the same south to the place of beginning," thus including about half of what is now Clinton township in addition to the present area. The erection of Clinton in 1855 reduced Scrubgrass to its present limits. This triangular area, bounded by the Allegheny river on the north and east, Clinton township on the west, and Butler county on the south, was one of the

earliest settled portions of Venango county. The field notes of Samuel Dale, deputy surveyor, show the following surveys at the respective dates given, and constitute a reliable record of the early residents:

John Craig, 397 acres, adjoining lands of Hugh McManigal, Richard Monjar, John Kerns and James Glenn, surveyed Nov. 11, 1800, by virtue of settlement and improvement.

Hugh Watson and William McKee, 399 acres, adjoining lands of Nathan Phipps, John Phipps, Samuel Doty and William Dickson, surveyed Oct. 23, 1801, by virtue of settlement and improvement.

Robert Atwell, 194 acres, adjoining lands of Samuel Doty and William Dickson, surveyed Oct. 24, 1801, by virtue of settlement and improvement.

John McQuiston, 369 acres, adjoining lands of William Russell, Robert McNitt and Samuel Doty, surveyed May 12, 1803, by virtue of settlement and improvement.

Michael McMullen, 430 acres, adjoining lands of James Craig, David Say, R. Irwin, William Black and Charles Coulter, surveyed May 23, 1804, by virtue of settlement and improvement.

David Say, 405 acres, adjoining lands of James Craig, Hugh Dalrymple, William Crawford, R. Irwin and Michael McMullen, surveyed May 23, 1804, by virtue of settlement and improvement.

William Sloan, 400 acres, adjoining lands of James Fearis, Hugh Dalrymple, Alexander Culbertson and John McDowell, surveyed Aug. 3, 1805, in pursuance of warrant bearing date Feb. 22, 1805.

Mayberry and Thomas Graham, 391 acres, adjoining lands of Nathan Phipps, James Graham, Andrew Allison and Craft Ghost, surveyed May 19, 1807, in possession at this time of Daniel Wasson, whose title was contested in the courts.

George McCool, 201 acres, adjoining lands of Thomas Barrow, Miles McCabe, Matthew Riddle and Samuel Jolly, surveyed May 20, 1807, by virtue of settlement and improvement.

Miles McCabe, 236 acres, adjoining lands of Thomas Barrow, William Courtney, Matthew Riddle and George McCool, surveyed May 20, 1807, by virtue of settlement and improvement.

Moses Perry, 415 acres, adjoining lands of James Scott, Samuel Jolly and James Polk, surveyed April 29, 1814, in pursuance of warrant bearing date Feb. 26, 1814.

James Scott, 400 acres, adjoining lands of Moses Perry, James Graham, Andrew Allison, William Jones and Joseph Redick, surveyed

April 14, 1815, in pursuance of warrant bearing date Dec. 15, 1814.

James Craig, 420 acres, adjoining lands of Thomas R. Parks, David Say, Thomas Milford, Francis Tracy, James Anderson and the heirs of Hugh Dalrymple, surveyed April 24, 1815, in pursuance of warrant bearing date Dec. 15, 1814.

Joseph, Thomas R. and Ann Parks, 415 acres, adjoining lands of Joseph Redick, Matthew Blaine, William Sloan, James Craig and James Anderson, surveyed April 13, 1815, in pursuance of warrant bearing date Dec. 15, 1814.

Nathan Phipps, 366 acres, adjoining lands of Alexander Graham, Daniel Wasson and William McKee, surveyed Dec. 29, 1815, in pursuance of warrant bearing date Sept. 4, 1815.

James McDowell, 356 acres, adjoining lands of John Fritz, William Shannon, William Sloan, Isaac Fearis and Joseph Redick, surveyed July 26, 1816, in pursuance of warrant bearing date Dec. 29, 1815.

This part of the county does not appear to have received much attention from land jobbers. As evidenced by Colonel Dale's notes, the majority of these surveys were made on settlement and improvement, and with scarcely a single exception the foregoing were actual settlers. As a matter of course, the date of settlement was earlier than that of the survey, and in some instances a tract of land was held by no tenure save the fact of possession a number of years before title was formally secured. Some of the early families are no longer represented here.

From a comparison of the best evidence it appears that the first settlement of Scrubgrass resulted from the explorations of James Scott, formerly a resident of Westmoreland county. Indian depredations having become frequent in the settlements of the Kiskiminetas, he was sent by the State authorities in company with another scout to ascertain whether the perpetrators were from Cornplanter's people or from the tribes in Ohio. An nearly as can be determined it was in 1793 or 1794 that they were sent on this mission, and nearly a year was occupied in their investigations. On his return to Westmoreland Scott gave his neighbors such a favorable account of the Scrubgrass region that when he removed here ten or twelve of them accompanied him, thus inaugurating the emigration from Westmoreland county which contributed so large an element to the population of the southern townships of Venango county. Scott's first improvement was made on a 400-acre tract near the

Butler county line. Several years later he sent for his father, who also located here, while the son took up another tract, the same later owned by Moses Perry (now the David Perry farm), the stone house in which Moses Perry lived being built by Scott, who died here in 1837.

Among the party who accompanied Scott in 1795 were James Craig and James Fearis, brothers-in-law, the former a son of John and Jane (Honeyman) Craig and married to Eleanor Fearis, of Westmoreland county. They built a small cabin without floor, and covered with a bark roof, and cleared a field from the surrounding woods, returning to pass the following winter at their former homes in Westmoreland county. Mrs. Craig accompanied her husband to Scrubgrass in the summer of 1796, being the first white woman who came into the township, and their son John, born in Westmoreland county Nov. 5, 1795, was the first white child brought into the new settlement. Jane, an older child, who married John Porterfield, came out later. Several children were born to the Craigs in this county: Isabella, who married T. P. Kerr, and was the first white child born in the township, her birth occurring in 1801; Elizabeth, who married William Perry; James, and Eleanor. James Craig erected the first sawmill in his neighborhood. During the war of 1812 he served in Captain Witherup's company. He had the property where John McCoy now lives, and was a resident of Scrubgrass until his death, June 2, 1835, his wife surviving him until 1856. When they removed to this county they used canoes for the transportation of their personal effects, which included an old Bible, various pieces of chinaware and an iron kettle still preserved as suggestive souvenirs.

James and George Fearis, with their widowed mother, were the first settlers upon the farm later owned by James P. Riddle. Mrs. Craig and other members of her own and the Fearis family returned to Westmoreland county frequently, bringing back with them the currant bush, asparagus and other garden vegetables, and Mrs. Craig brought the first geese into the township from the old home.

Samuel Jolly, born Oct. 16, 1766, came in 1795, made a small clearing the first season, planted a crop, and built a cabin. After passing the winter with his family at the old home he brought them out in 1796. His brother Thomas Jolly settled in Venango township, Butler county, where his son Capt. Thomas Jolly lived to an advanced age.

David Say, a native of the Kishacoquillas

valley, in Mifflin county, Pa., was the son of James Say, an Englishman by birth and a connection of the family of Lord Say. He located in Westmoreland county, whence he came to Venango county in 1795 with Scott's party. The first season he cleared several acres of land and sowed wheat. The following spring he brought out his family, carrying the oldest child on his back, while an ox carried all their household effects. Tradition declares that Mrs. Say wept when the ox in falling destroyed some of her cherished dishes. The 400-acre tract surveyed to Say passed into the possession of his descendants, a number of whom are still living in the neighborhood. He was township collector a number of years.

William Crawford, who settled in Scrubgrass township in 1799, was a son of John Crawford, a native American of Scotch-Irish extraction, and one of the early settlers of Greene county, Pa. Some time prior to 1800, probably as early as 1795, he came to this region with several of his sons, made a clearing and planted a crop and returned, leaving the son Samuel in charge of the stock. This place, which subsequently became his homestead, is situated in Butler county, two miles south of Emlenton. The following year he returned with his family, leaving several married sons in Greene county, among whom was William. The latter's land, adjoining the Butler county line, passed into the possession of his son David M. Crawford. The substantial stone house on this farm, built in 1824, is one of the oldest dwellings in the township.

Thomas McKean, a native Scotchman, settled in Scrubgrass prior to 1800 at a point on the Allegheny river, being accompanied by a sister who married a man named Hall. McKean was a member of the Scrubgrass Presbyterian Church.

Thomas Milford, a native of Ireland, upon his emigration to America first settled in one of the eastern counties of Pennsylvania, removing thence to Venango county about 1800 with two brothers, William and James, the latter locating in Butler county. Thomas Milford secured land adjacent to Scrubgrass Church, and there reared a family of eleven children. His homestead farm passed into the possession of his son Thomas Milford.

Near the close of the eighteenth century Moses Perry bought the farm later occupied by his son David Perry. He married Sarah Russell, daughter of William Russell, and they became the parents of a large family. The father died in 1840, the mother some two years later. William Perry, their eldest son, who

lived and died in the township, attained considerable local prominence and became one of the leading citizens of the county, being elected county commissioner in 1838 and later representing the district in the State legislature. He married Elizabeth, daughter of James Craig.

David Russell, a veteran of the Revolution, removed to Scrubgrass township from Westmoreland county and about the close of the century settled upon the lands afterward acquired by the Middleton family. For a short time he also lived in Butler county. He had a family of seven children. Samuel Russell, the second son, born in 1780 in Butler county, was first lieutenant of a company formed in Butler county during the war of 1812. In 1824 he secured the farm later owned by his son David. He died in 1877.

James Anderson, born in January, 1761, was another pioneer of Scrubgrass. He removed from the Tuscarora valley, in eastern Pennsylvania, in 1804, locating in Butler county, and in 1814 purchased 400 acres of land in Scrubgrass from David Irvine, the consideration being \$2,100, of which \$300 was to be paid in cash; another payment two hundred gallons of whiskey at seventy-five cents a gallon; and the remainder in installments at regular intervals. His land included the site of a mill on Little Scrubgrass creek, which he operated and rebuilt, adding also saw and carding facilities. He was a very active business man in his day, dying in 1842.

John and Alexander McQuiston were the first of their name in Venango county. The former was born in 1776 in New Jersey, and with his brothers Alexander and David removed from that State to Westmoreland county, John and Alexander coming from there in 1802 to the northwestern part of Scrubgrass, to land later owned by C. E. McQuiston. John McQuiston was a carpenter and cabinet-maker by trade, and one of the first artisans in the township. He died in 1849.

With the early settlers should also be mentioned Rev. Robert Johnson, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, who preached in the first building erected in the county for religious worship. He was born Aug. 7, 1774, and was a lineal descendant of Oliver Cromwell through Bridget, eldest daughter of the Protector, who first married General Fleetwood and later General Ireton. The grandfather of Rev. Mr. Johnson settled in New Jersey. This well known minister acquired his education at Canonsburg, Pa., received his license to preach in 1802, and began his life work at Scrubgrass in 1803. In 1811 he moved to

Meadville, Pa., and he died May 20, 1861, at New Castle, Pa. He was the father of Judge S. P. Johnson, of Warren.

Later arrivals included Jacob Jacobs, from New Jersey, who came in 1814 and located upon a 400-acre tract. Samuel Eakin, a native of England, settled where James Vogus now lives, and had married Nancy Riley before coming here. William Clay, who came from Westmoreland county in 1814, lived adjacent to the Butler county line. Levi Williams, born Oct. 19, 1781, in Northumberland county, came thence with the family of his father, Benjamin Williams, to Clinton township in 1803, and from there in 1812 removed to the extreme southwestern part of Scrubgrass. He owned 109 acres of land later held by his sons, and in 1836 built the stone house where Simeon Williams eventually took up his residence. He died in 1867. James Pollock, a native of Ireland, was a son of Charles Pollock, one of the early settlers near Farmington, Butler county, and brother to John Pollock, at one time sheriff of that county; he located on the road from Lisbon to Clintonville, and married a daughter of Matthew Riddle.

*Population.*—In 1870 the population of Scrubgrass was 997; 1880, 1,503; 1890, 1,072; 1900, 1,047; 1910, 858.

*Villages.*—Lisbon was laid out in 1854 by Thomas Robinson and John Smith on land formerly included in the farms of Moses Perry and Elizabeth Riddle. It lies at the intersection of the roads leading from Scrubgrass to the Butler line with the main road from Emlenton to Clintonville, fourteen miles south of Franklin. Emlenton, the nearest railroad point, is five miles distant. The first house was built in 1834 by Ephraim Galbraith and Samuel Marshall, who also opened the first store. James Kingsley was the first blacksmith, and Thomas Robinson kept the first hotel. The place was originally known as Fort Chisel, though no one seems to know why. The post office maintained at this point was called Big Bend, but it is now served on a rural route from Emlenton. The village has a store, blacksmith shop and mill, with perhaps a dozen houses, and a population of fifty.

Crawford's Corners, three miles from Emlenton on the Butler county line, became a post office in 1870, when H. C. Wick was appointed postmaster. It is now served by rural free delivery from Emlenton. Two residences and a store constitute the village.

*Industries and Resources.*—James Anderson bought from David Irvin the first mill in the township. It was built by Charles Camp-

bell. Anderson's purchase was made in 1814, and ten years later he built the mill afterward operated a short distance below the old site, also erecting a carding mill farther up the creek and a sawmill farther down. The first sawmill on Little Scrubgrass creek was built by James Craig. These mills are now out of business. The only sawmills now used in the township are small movable steam mills placed wherever required for temporary needs, such as the production of railroad ties, staves, etc. There are no woolen mills in the county now.

James Anderson's son James erected and operated a distillery on his farm, later the property of his son James, in the western part of the township, where a fine spring furnished excellent water for the purpose. The "Scrubgrass whiskey" manufactured at this still, long famed for its quality, is only a memory now.

Among the early industrial institutions were the tanneries of James Perry at Lisbon and David H. McQuiston in the northern part of the township, not far from the river; they are no more. The creamery near Lisbon of Messrs. McCoy & McQuiston, with a large output of dairy products for the city markets, gave a great impetus to stock farming in this and adjoining townships. This large output of dairy products still continues from near Lisbon and from other creameries in the township.

In many places in the township there are veins of bituminous coal, varying from thirty inches to four feet in thickness, beneath the surface. It was first mined about 1825, in the vicinity of Crawford's Corners, but though mining operations are still continued the production does not exceed the requirements for local consumption.

The first oil well in the township was drilled in 1859 on the Rhodabarger farm near the Allegheny river, by an association known as the Sugar Camp Oil Company, which had about sixty members. According to the rules, those who failed to pay assessments forfeited their shares, and when a 600-foot hole was drilled without striking oil investors became discouraged and let their shares go, though several assessments had already been paid. J. P. Crawford, Henry Kohlmeyer and David P. Williams, the only ones who had kept up their interests, wound up the affairs of the concern. In June, 1863, Aaron Kepler drilled the first productive well in the township on the Russell farm, and he also drilled the second, on the farm of Samuel Lawrence, adjoining. The largest well in the township was on the farm of John Crawford, its daily production at first being one hundred barrels. Many wells drilled

years ago are still producing, there being a small regular production in the vicinity, and while no great excitement has ever attended developments in this section there seems to be a permanency about the production that fully compensates for its absence.

Scrubgrass township, though containing no villages of considerable size, is a land of promise. A greater part of its 14,800 acres is level, readily cultivated, and produces good crops, of all the grains grown in a temperate climate, wheat, rye, corn, oats, besides grass and vegetables. A portion lying along the Allegheny is rough, but has oil under the surface, as yet not nearly exhausted. There is gas also near the Butler county line which capitalists may yet develop, bringing in some cheap fuel when it is greatly needed. The coal has already been mentioned. But the land, just the land, is a gold mine when it is worked scientifically, to produce the crops which the soil is capable of yielding.

#### FRENCH CREEK TOWNSHIP

French Creek township, named from the creek, was created by a commission appointed in March, 1806. Its boundaries have been modified at different times by the formation of other townships, and with the establishment of Mineral township were fixed as they now are. The township includes an irregular area of territory lying in the western part of the county, with Sandy Creek, Victory and Mineral townships on the south, Mercer county on the west, and the townships of Canal and Sugar Creek on the north and northeast.

The hills and valleys of this region, with glens of wonderful beauty, should be celebrated in song and story. The principal water courses are French and Mill creeks, which with their tributaries drain and water a large territory. Building stone of superior quality is found in various parts of the township, French creek played its part in the development of the great oil interests of Venango county, many wells having been opened here in the sixties, and others drilled from time to time. The production was unsatisfactory. Considerable land was held for a long time by oil companies; perhaps some is yet so held.

Here, about three miles above Utica, on the Heydrick farm, Custaloga's Town (of which a full account appears in a previous chapter) was located. The Indians were still raising small crops of corn and vegetables upon the flat lands on the west side of Deer creek when the Martin family came to the township.

*Settlement.*—The first white men to penetrate the wilds of what is now French Creek township were the early French missionaries and explorers of the Allegheny valley. In December, 1753, George Washington, then a young man, went up the creek on his celebrated mission to the French commandant at Le Boeuf.

John Martin came from Maryland in 1796, and located a tract of land on French creek about three miles above Utica, upon which he made the first improvements in the township. For some years he kept the ferry at his farm known as Martin's ferry, and he is remembered as a man of great physical endurance and a true type of the honest, energetic pioneer. His five sons, David, Thomas, John, Jr., James and Solomon, grew to manhood in this township, but with the exception of John, Jr., who died in French Creek in 1862, subsequently moved to other parts of the country. John Martin, Sr., died on the old homestead at an early date. Mrs. Dewoody of Franklin and Mrs. Allen of Crawford county were daughters of John Martin, Jr.

A number of hardy pioneers came with Martin from the East to explore this country. One of his contemporaries here was John Chapman, who took up land in different parts of the township, but whose sojourn, owing to his thrifless disposition, was only temporary. He appears to have been impatient of the restraints of civilization, so much so that as soon as settlements began to increase he disposed of his few improvements, and with a few others of his kind drifted farther westward.

John Gordon became a resident as early as 1797-98, settling the Adams farm on Mill creek a couple of miles west of Utica. About the same time came John Cooper, who made an improvement on the Duffield place near Utica, while a brother of Cooper moved into the township prior to the year 1800 and purchased what is known as the Glenn farm on Mill creek.

William Duffield came to Venango from Center county about the year 1798, accompanied by his daughter, and after selecting a tract of land one and a half miles southeast of the present site of Utica left the latter to hold the place while he went back for the rest of the family. As soon as matters could be conveniently arranged he returned with them, and was soon safely settled in his new home among the high hills and deep forests of French creek. Mr. Duffield was a native of Ireland and a descendant of a large and intelligent family of that name which came to

America about the year 1767. He was a prominent resident of French Creek until his death in 1827. His sons, John, Armstrong, William and James, were all leading citizens of the community, and their numerous descendants are among the substantial people of Venango county at this time.

John Lindsay, an early settler on Mill creek, arrived about 1799 or 1800; he was also an Irishman. He claimed to have been the pioneer mill builder of French Creek, having erected a small sawmill, near where Utica now stands, as early as 1804, and later a flour mill one and a half miles from Utica. It was while cutting ice from around the large waterwheel of this mill that he afterward met a violent death by falling among some timbers, which closing together caught his neck so that he was left hanging until life became extinct.

About this period also the Adams family moved to the township, Welden Adams locating about a mile east of Waterloo (now Polk), and James making his first improvements on the present site of Utica. The former bore a prominent part in the early development of the region, and at one time served as commissioner of Venango county. He reared a number of children. His son John was drowned in Mill creek a short time after the family came to the county, while another son of the same name, who became well known as "Uncle John" Adams, of Polk, was at the time of his death the oldest native resident of French Creek, his birth having occurred on the old farm in February, 1807. James Adams, Jr., also a son of Welden Adams, settled the place where his son W. S. Adams afterward lived, a couple of miles west of Utica, and became prominent in the locality, serving as county commissioner and as commissioner of the French Creek canal.

James Adams, Sr., the brother who settled at Utica, was an active business man for many years, doing much for the advancement of the community by his construction of mills and factories. These were afterward operated by his son James, whose descendants still occupy the family homestead in Utica.

Thomas Russell, the first of the well known Russell family to settle in this part of the country, came from Huntingdon county about the beginning of the nineteenth century, and located on French creek about a mile above Utica. His son Alexander, then a small boy, accompanied his father to the new country and bore his share of the many trials and hardships incident to life in the backwoods. It is related that on one occasion, after the fam-

ily had been without flour several days, and were tiring of cornmeal and potatoes as a substitute for bread, young Alexander was sent on horseback with a bag of wheat to the mill at Franklin. Getting his grist, he started homeward in the afternoon. As he reached "Hanna's Gap" a large black bear came out into the road and deliberately stopped in front of the horse, frightening the boy so thoroughly that he dropped the sack of flour, and applying the switch to his horse was soon away from the threatened danger. At home he told his thrilling experience, and the father, arming himself, went back to the scene of the incident, where he found the sack of flour untouched. The bear was not to be seen.

In addition to those already noted, James and Robert Greenlee and William Vogan were living within the present limits of French Creek township as early as 1800, all in the western part near the Mercer county line.

Jacob Runninger, a native of Holland, came to the United States in 1777, and first settled in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, thence in 1801 moving to Venango county, where he bought 307 acres of land in French Creek township. He was an active business man until his death in 1825. His son Jacob Runninger came here with him, and the latter's sons, Jacob, Jr., James P., Conrad, David and John, also lived in the township. John served one term as sheriff. Other descendants remain in the county.

Hugh and John L. Hasson, father and son, became residents of French Creek in 1799 or 1800, moving from the eastern part of the State with a horse and pack saddle and a horse and sled. They settled a short distance from Utica, where Hugh Hasson died in 1815, and John L. Hasson subsequently (about 1824) moved to Canal township, where seven families of his descendants still reside, while there are others of this branch in different sections of the county. The Hassons of Oil City are not related to the family settling in French Creek township.

Another early settler was John Hanna, who emigrated from County Down, Ireland, landing at New Castle, Del., in 1796. After a residence of two years at Lancaster, Pa., he moved to Mifflin county, and in 1802 came to Venango, arriving at the Blair farm, formerly the homestead of Maj. George C. McClelland, in French Creek township, on Christmas day. He remained there only a short time, making his permanent settlement on what became

known as the "Hanna tract," along the creek a few miles below Utica.

James Gilliland, who came to the township about 1804, improved a farm one and a half miles north of Waterloo. He was one of the early teachers in French Creek, and also did as much as, if not more than, any other man toward awakening an interest in the cause of religion and establishing churches in the township. His sons, Joseph and Alexander C., settled near the place of his original settlement.

Peter Patterson, another pioneer, was born in Juniata county, Pa., and first visited this locality prior to 1800. Through his brother-in-law, James Greenlee, already a resident of this county, he was induced to make his permanent residence here, which he did in 1807, settling a tract of 250 acres in the extreme western part of the county adjacent to the Mercer county line. He was a member of the Associate Reformed Church and died in that faith in 1840. He belonged to the organization at Cochranton, but meetings were frequently held at his house which ultimately resulted in the formation of the flourishing United Presbyterian Church of Sandy. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Donnelly, survived him until 1862. They were the parents of twelve children.

John Temple and his sons, John, David and Robert, were among the first permanent residents in the vicinity of Polk, where Seth Jewel, a Revolutionary soldier, also settled, improving a part of the ground on which the village now stands. Other early residents near Polk were William Evans, James Nicholson and sons David and Robert, James Cannon and James McClaran; and those who came to the vicinity at an early date and took a part in the development of the country also included Augustus Shaw; John, James and Andrew McGinnis; David Vincent; David Gilmore and sons John, David, Brice, William and Robert; Jonas Reynolds and sons Wolcott, Joel, Hiram, Jonas and Erastus; William and Walter Gibson; Aaron McKissick; Mr. Johnston; Samuel Bunnell; Edward Hughes; George Cummings; John Cummings; William Cummings; James Hays; Charles H. Heydrick; Dr. Christopher Heydrick; A. W. Raymond.

*Mills.*—Of industrial activities in French Creek township that of milling has always been the most important, the waters of Mill creek having been early utilized as the motive power for machinery. The pioneer mill builder in this part of the county was John Lindsay,

mentioned above. His mill was a very primitive affair, and owing to the scarcity of water in the creek was in operation only a short time. A little later Mr. Lindsay built a flouring mill about one and a half miles from Utica, which like the sawmill depended for its motive power on Mill creek. This mill he operated until his death, doing a very successful business, and it was afterward operated by other members of the Lindsay family until its destruction by fire about 1854.

*Population.*—In 1880 the population of the township was 1,286; 1890, not returned separately; 1900, 943; 1910, 1,029.

*Utica* borough, pleasantly located eight miles northwest of Franklin and three miles southeast of the Mercer county line, marks the site of one of the earliest improved farms in French Creek township. Settlements were made in the vicinity of the village on French creek during the latter part of the eighteenth century, and it is reasonably certain that a temporary resident, whose name is not known, made a few improvements upon the present site of the place as early as 1796 or 1797. Its first permanent settler was James Adams, who about the year 1800 purchased that portion of the town known as the original plat, upon which he built a house and made other necessary improvements. His neighbors were the Lindsay, Duffield, Martin, Gordon, Chapman, Cooper and other early families who located their respective homes within a few miles along French creek. Mr. Adams was evidently enterprising and energetic, judging by the fact that in addition to clearing land and developing a good farm he made early use of the splendid water power of Mill creek, erecting a saw and grist mill and woolen factory, all of which were highly valued by the early settlers over the line in Mercer county as well as those in Venango. The woolen mill was the first of its kind in Venango county, and although quite a primitive affair appears to have been operated almost constantly during the early period of the French Creek settlement. The flouring mill, erected about 1805, was a small frame structure two and a half stories high, and was operated quite successfully until about 1842. The sawmill, which stood near the spot occupied by the ruins of another mill of the same kind put up at a later date, supplied the early inhabitants along French creek with building material for a number of years.

These mills, erected by James Adams before the founding of the village, were the first manufacturing enterprises at Utica. His first woolen mill stood on Mill creek, near the

southwest corner of the borough. The small frame building, equipped with fair machinery, operated by water power, was kept running almost constantly for a number of years, so great was the demand for its products. It ceased operations in 1846, when Mr. Adams erected a larger factory, 30 by 40 feet in dimensions and three stories high, with machinery for carding, spinning, cloth dressing and the manufacture of such woolen fabrics as local trade demanded. It was a great benefit to the farmers of the neighborhood, who thus found profit in sheep raising with a home market for their wool. The Adams family continued to operate it until it was burned about 1869.

While the conveniences afforded by these mills attracted attention to the place, which early became a very thriving settlement, it was not until the construction of the French Creek canal through the country that the advisability of locating a trading point on the present site of the village came to be considered. It was while work on the canal was in progress that one John Floyd erected a small store room above where the iron bridge now crosses the creek, and stocked it with a miscellaneous assortment of merchandise for the purpose of trading with the contractors and workmen. The venture proved financially successful and he continued the business about four or five years, when he disposed of his stock and went to Pittsburgh, in which city he subsequently engaged profitably in the wholesale trade.

The real advancement of the town, however, dates from the advent of A. W. Raymond, who was quick to foresee the future advantages of the location from a commercial standpoint, and purchased land from the Adams family wherein in 1830 he proceeded to lay out a town which he called Utica, named after his old home, the city of Utica, N. Y. Before this year there were only a few dwellings on the present site of the borough, including the residence of James Adams, which is said to have been one of the first brick houses ever erected in Venango county. It is still standing, and despite its great age is remarkably well preserved. Mr. Raymond was soon recognized as the presiding genius and inspiration of the community. He devoted both time and means toward building up the new town and developing its industries, one of his first notable improvements being the frame store building a short distance east of the old Adams residence, where he opened a general store. Within a comparatively limited period he succeeded in

building up an extensive and prosperous trade. After continuing the business several years he sold out to Adam Cooper, binding the latter by written agreement to keep in stock all the goods necessary to supply the demands of the community and agreeing to make no attempt at opposition in the business so long as the pledge was faithfully observed. It appears that within a short time Cooper's stock of goods was allowed to run down, whereupon Mr. Raymond, considering the agreement violated, brought a second store to the place, and Cooper immediately brought action against him. At the trial, held in Franklin, Mr. Raymond proved to the satisfaction of the court and jury that the violation was not on his part and won the case. The second store building stood on the lot occupied at this time by the residence and shop of C. H. Yard. Later, in 1839, he erected a brick store on Chestnut street, in which he did a successful trade for several years. Meantime he purchased the mill property and later opened a hotel, "The Traveler's Home," which early became a favorite stopping place for the traveling public. After a few more years in the mercantile business he rented his store to James McGill, of Mercer, and went to Raymilton, in Mineral township, of which village he was also founder and proprietor.

Mr. Raymond continued his interest in Utica, however, in the early forties putting up a large brick flouring mill there where he did a very successful business for a number of years. In the fifties he disposed of his interests here and removed to Franklin, where he resided until his death in 1890, at the beginning of his ninetieth year. Later the mill had other owners, one of whom, Nesbit & Company, remodeled the building and installed improved machinery for the manufacture of flour by the roller process, the capacity of the mill in their day being fifty barrels of flour a day, besides meal and feed. For years it was run by water power, but in 1888 was converted for steam power, natural gas being used as fuel. Its location was then changed to the east side of French creek, nearly half a mile above Mill creek. Robert Lee now owns it. It is run in the fall and winter to supply local demands.

Besides merchandising and milling Mr. Raymond operated a small foundry for several years, manufacturing plows, hoes, and many other implements required by the local farmers. This furnace went out with the others in the county. Before 1850 he also built a distillery in the lower end of the borough which

was in operation until some time in the sixties, and, like all his enterprises, a substantial success.

Several years prior to 1850 William Smiley and Brice Gilmore began merchandising, the former doing business at what was later the site of the Perrine grocery, the latter in a small building on the same street. Their capital was limited and their association with the trade brief. W. S. Devore was one of the successful merchants of the place, as was also Thomas Nesbit, who was prominently identified with business and public interests in the borough until a few years before his death in 1910. For some time the firm was Nesbit, Stevenson & Company, and Gilmore, Stevenson & Company also did a good business. Messrs. Nicklin and Bryden were also well known merchants, and James Fiscus was one of the early grocers, though it is said his principal stock in trade consisted of "mountain tangle foot" which brought him numerous customers of a certain class.

In the early days of the village Robert Woods established a small furniture factory on Water street which was well patronized by the residents of the locality, and a little later William Anderson began the manufacture of chairs in a small shop near the mouth of Mill creek.

During the great oil excitement in Venango county the manufacture of sucker rods became a very lucrative industry, and one of the first factories was built in Utica by Elias Cozad. Later he formed a partnership in the business with Mr. Shannon and the firm soon became one of the leaders in its line in the county. The factory did a large business throughout the oil excitement, supplying most of the rods used in this part of the country, but with the decline of the oil business all work at this factory was suspended.

David Goodard started a tannery which he eventually sold out to Cornelius Wilson, who continued it with fair success until about 1872. Then he converted his shop into a factory for the production of sucker rods, and though the trade shrank somewhat when the local oil operations decreased temporarily it has been built up again, the business being now operated by two of his sons under the name of Wilson Brothers.

Local business activities are yet continued by a number of thriving establishments, at the present time including those of G. P. Brown, Leroy C. Curtis, Samuel L. Mitchell, and Shawkey Bros., merchants; Robert Lee, miller; W. C. Dickey, undertaker; Frank M.

McClelland, M. D.; Samuel W. and William E. Smith, liverymen; W. F. Young, lumberman.

As to manufactures, there are the steam flouring mill, a sawmill, a cider mill and apple jelly factory, and these are spasmodic.

As before indicated, the little plants of various kinds which started up all over the county, to answer the stirring appeal of early needs, have generally passed away. A successful manufacturing enterprise draws to itself support from a large territory. It becomes great only in this way, and by advantages of transportation, accessibility of raw material, and the excellence of its products. The small concerns were isolated, like the settlers' homes.

"The Travelers' Home" already mentioned was the first hotel in Utica and opened for the accommodation of the public by A. W. Raymond before 1840. Messrs. Bowden and Dunn kept the next hotel, which was later known as the "Singleton House" and was the principal stopping place here during the oil excitement. A Mr. Chamberlain conducted the house for some time, Mr. Singleton purchasing the property later and converting it into a private boarding house. The "Lee House," for many years the only hotel in the borough, was opened for the accommodation of guests by William Lee in 1881, and he and his wife are still conducting the place, which is a very popular country hotel, noted for chicken and waffle suppers. It is a large frame building in the eastern part of Utica, with all modern comforts and conveniences. Robert Lee, son of William, runs the only grist mill in the borough, in winter, chiefly for local accommodation, for the manufacture of buckwheat and wheat flour, meal and feed. The mill is modern in equipment and as already stated uses gas engine power.

We have record of the following medical men who have been located here from time to time: Drs. M. M. Byles, James A. Donaldson, Fielding Donaldson, Riddle, Leet, Cooley, McCormick, Dean S. Brown, John H. Martin, Frank H. Johnston, F. M. McClelland, John J. Looney, William W. Shaffer, Frank E. Magee and J. T. Lafferty.

In November, 1863, Utica was incorporated as a borough, but owing to the absence of the original records it is impossible to present a complete list of borough officers from the beginning. The first year of which there is any definite record is 1868, when the following served: Burgess, S. Shannon; J. H. Likens, clerk; James Adams, street commissioner; William Fancher, Philip Duffield, Edward Hughes, Thomas Nesbit, Louis Hassenfritz,

council. A. W. Raymond was the first postmaster.

Changes in legislation relating to borough government resulted in the holding of no borough elections in 1912, 1914 and 1916, officials holding over in those years. The first election under the general act of 1915 was held in 1917, at the same time as the general election in November. Since 1900 Utica has had the following burgesses and councilmen:

1900-01-02—Burgess, B. O. Hood; Councilmen, 1900—G. W. Peterson, F. M. Wilson, Eugene Bennett, Frank Homan, D. K. Ramsay; 1901—J. A. Stewart, F. M. Wilson, J. P. Cassidy, L. E. Hasson, D. K. Ramsay; 1902—D. K. Ramsay, J. K. Adams.

1903-04-05—Burgess, E. A. Wilson; Councilmen, 1903—Fred Elwinger, L. C. Burnett; 1904—J. M. Jewell, J. R. Deets, J. E. Hasson; 1905—S. C. Myers, J. H. Ray, William Campbell.

1906-07-08—Burgess, S. W. Hays; Councilmen, 1906—Fred Elwinger, John McCurry; 1907—Q. C. Beightol, L. C. Hasson, Frank Beatty; 1908—C. W. Carnahan (three years). F. B. Baily (two years).

1909-10-11—Burgess, J. M. Ray; Councilmen, 1909—S. A. Murry, S. W. Hays, F. M. Wilson; 1910—James P. Cassidy, William Fleming; 1911—S. C. Hasson, Q. C. Beightol, A. B. Gildersleeve.

1913-15—Burgess, W. T. Johnston; Councilmen, 1913—J. P. Cassidy (four years), S. W. Hays (four years), E. A. Wilson (four years); 1915—J. M. Ray (four years), S. C. Hasson (four years).

1917—Burgess, L. C. Curtis (four years); Councilmen, W. C. Dickey (four years), J. T. Wallace (four years), O. E. Eakin (two years).

Owing to the sparsely settled condition of the surrounding country, the growth of Utica was necessarily slow for a number of years, but the great oil excitement in the sixties, and the completion in 1863 of a branch of what was formerly the Atlantic & Great Western railroad, now a part of the Erie system, infused the place with new life and vitality, so that its importance as a trading and shipping point began to appreciate. Merchants did a thriving business, and the various mills and other industries were kept running at their full capacity. Real estate went up in value, and for a few years it looked as if Utica would rival some of the more populous towns of the county, and though this spirit did not continue unabated the borough has maintained a place among the successful commercial centers of

Venango, and from its location in the midst of a fine agricultural region will always control a fair proportion of local business.

Like many other towns of western Pennsylvania, Utica has for many years enjoyed the advantages of natural gas, which was piped to the borough in 1886, by the Columbia Gas Company of Franklin. The main line of the company, extending from the gas region to Meadville, was tapped for the purpose, and the franchise in Utica stipulates that free gas shall be furnished for illuminating the streets and heating the school building, in exchange for the privilege of laying the pipes through the streets. This superior fuel is now in general use in the borough.

In 1890 the borough had a population of 321; 1900, 268; 1910, 265.

The first bridge across French creek at Utica was a wooden structure built in the year 1842. Prior to that date the stream was crossed by means of a ferry, consisting of a flatboat and skiff operated by Michael Kincaid, who obtained the legal permission to establish it as early as 1839. The old wooden bridge remained until 1859, when it was replaced by another wooden one of greater strength and superior workmanship, this being succeeded by the present substantial iron bridge, erected in 1886 at a cost of ten thousand dollars.

*Polk* borough, originally known as Waterloo, was the site of one of the earliest settlements of Sandy creek. The large tract of land in this vicinity of which William Gibson obtained possession in 1798 or 1799, opening a farm there, included a part of the village plat, and his little log cabin, not far from the western limits of the borough, is said to have been the first improvement made on its site. Before 1800 also came John Temple, whose location was on Sandy creek a short distance from the village, and other early residents in the immediate neighborhood were Seth Jewel, Welden Adams, James Cannon, James McClaran and William Evans, all of whom located claims between 1799 and 1802.

The natural advantages of the location induced Oliver McGarvey early in the last century to erect a flouring mill on Big Sandy, the first mill at this point, and a little later a small stock of general merchandise was brought to the place and placed on sale in a small log building which stood not far from the lot where the Cochran residence was afterward erected. Although the store proved a great convenience to the community and was well

patronized, the proprietor sold his stock and moved away because he had no taste for the business. Giles & Lyons, who made the next mercantile venture there, erected a frame building and drove a good trade for about five years, being succeeded by John Temple, Jr. He had encouraging success, but after a short experience sold out to Aaron McKissick, from whose time the important progress of the town dates. His energy and superior business qualifications brought him success in everything which he undertook. Having purchased the land where the town stands, he had it surveyed and platted under the name of Waterloo in 1839, and it was so known until its incorporation as a borough, Aug. 23, 1886, when the present name of the post office was adopted. Mr. McKissick not only continued the store, but also opened the first hotel in the place and ran it for a number of years, also engaging in stock dealing and farming.

Other stores were those of William Grove, who was here a few years; James Duffield, from 1860 to 1870 or 1872; Everhart Lytle; William H. Hurlbert; the Grange or Cooperative store managed by James Billingsley, in successful operation for several years, and succeeded by that of I. H. Davison, who up to his death in 1899 was proprietor of one of the largest and most prosperous general stores in the county outside of Oil City and Franklin. He was the father of W. W. Davison, present prothonotary of the county. The present stores at Polk are: Shawkey Brothers, general merchandise; Bolander & Ellenberger; Harry Doutt, restaurant, cigars, tobacco and candy; and the S. I. general store.

The first mechanic to locate in the town was Thomas Ray, blacksmith. Cassidy Gould and John Andre, blacksmiths, came a little later, as did John Ray and Alexander Black, wagon-makers, and S. Hamlin, cooper.

The mill already mentioned, a small tannery and the Waterloo creamery were all successful establishments in their day.

The population of the borough for 1890 does not appear in the census records; in 1900 it was 1,037; 1910, 2,066. It is now third in population of all the towns in the county, without counting any of the inmates of the State Institution. A great State's fitting embodiment of its charity in many fine buildings, occupying hundreds of acres of land, all arranged in exquisite taste, and constantly improved and enlarged to accommodate the increasing numbers of the instructors, physicians, teachers, nurses and caretakers of the Institution, has

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

resulted in a large influx of population from the outside—people come to share in the greater business opportunities.

George Giles was the first postmaster at Polk.

The mill stood on Sandy creek until its destruction by fire in 1870. It was two stories high, supplied with good machinery operated by water power, and was well patronized by the population of French Creek, Sandy Creek and Mineral townships. David Herstine, the last owner of the original mill, erected another and larger one on its site a little after it burned, which was subsequently owned and operated by Ross Robison.

The tannery started by Messrs. Patts and Badger was operated for a short time. The stave manufactory started by William Stevenson about 1870 was carried on by him four years in connection with a large cooper shop, business being good, but a new location necessary because material became scarce in the locality. The Waterloo creamery was started in 1877 by J. A. Billingsley, who subsequently disposed of his interest to Messrs. Davison, Davis and Glenn. The original building was used until 1888, when a larger one was erected, supplied with up-to-date machinery, the daily capacity being five hundred pounds of butter, which was shipped to Franklin, New York City and Pittsburgh.

Since 1900 the borough government has been administered by the following officials:

1900-01-02—Burgess, J. B. Marshall; Councilmen, 1900—G. Cann, B. W. Jones, William Kodill, N. A. Amon, F. R. Peters; 1901—G. L. Weaver, F. E. Rand, A. J. Doutt, Marshall Adams; 1902—Andrew Bell, F. C. Rand, G. B. Hays.

1903-04-05—Burgess, W. S. Adams; Councilmen, 1903—John McClelland, W. W. Hodel, Henry Hoover; 1904—T. J. Fell, G. A. Amon, Lyman Ross; 1905—H. W. Hoover, Harvey Hays, T. J. Fell.

1906-07-08—Burgess, D. E. McKinley; Councilmen, 1906—F. C. Peterson, Andy Bell, G. B. Hays; 1907—G. L. Weaver, Robert Allen, J. E. Powell; 1908—George Hays, John Bennett, H. J. Hays.

1909-10-11—Burgess, James A. Blair; Councilmen, 1909—Robert Orr, H. O. White, D. E. McKinley; 1910—Guy Amon, John Bennett; 1911—G. L. Weaver, H. J. Hays, J. S. McClelland.

1913-15—Burgess, A. J. Doutt; Councilmen, 1913—J. A. Blair (four years), Ray Ammon (four years), James Ellenberger, Charles Thomas; 1915—Charles Jones (four years),

M. B. Wood (four years), Benjamin Mook (two years), C. M. Doutt (two years).

1917—Burgess, A. J. Doutt (four years); Councilmen, W. B. Hays (four years), James Ellenberger (four years), Benj. J. Mook (four years).

The borough is on the Franklin branch of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern road, now included in the New York Central system, and is six miles from Franklin. It is now probably best known as the seat of the State Institution for Feeble Minded of Western Pennsylvania, established there by act of June 3, 1893, which authorized the governor to appoint five commissioners to select the site and build the institution, appropriating \$250,000 for the purchase of ground and construction work. The board of trustees consists of: President, William T. Bradbury, Pittsburgh, Allegheny county; secretary, Marvin T. Scaife, Pittsburgh, Allegheny county; treasurer, O. D. Bleakley, Franklin, Venango county; Samuel H. Miller, Mercer, Mercer county; J. N. Davidson, Pittsburgh, Allegheny county; George S. Criswell, Franklin, Venango county; Marshall Phipps, Franklin, Venango county; Frederick H. Coursin, Dravosburg, Allegheny county. Resident officers. J. M. Murdock, M. D., superintendent; B. A. Black, M. D., assistant superintendent; Henry B. Gaynor, assistant physician; James E. Dwyer, assistant physician; George L. Weaver, steward; George Huys, engineer; H. C. Ewalt, farmer; Miss Susan Claybaugh, stenographer; Miss Pearl Hockman, bookkeeper; Miss Mary L. Roerig, matron; Miss Anna Benner, principal teacher. These trustees and resident officers have served from the beginning with very few changes. The changes necessarily made on account of deaths and removals have affected the names of the officers, but not at all the quality of service rendered, which from the first, and continuing with the induction of newcomers, has been worthy of the strong, beautiful spirit of charity which governed Pennsylvania in providing the institution.

## RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

Richland township as originally defined in 1806 included much more than its present area, to which it was reduced in 1839 upon the formation of Clarion county. It is one of the smaller subdivisions of Venango county, with Rockland township adjoining on the west and north and the Allegheny river on the southwest, across from Scrubgrass. The surface is much diversified and well watered.

*Pioneers.*—The first portion of the township to be settled was the region about the mouth of Ritchey's run, named after the Ritchey family, which was first represented here by James Ritchey, who came from Westmoreland county in 1796. He settled on the Clarion county side of Ritchey's run, a mile and a half from its mouth. His wife's name was Jane Kennedy, and they had thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters. Of their descendants once living in Richland, James Ritchey was elected county commissioner in 1857. He was the only member of the family to hold a county office. The property once the home of his father, Alexander Ritchey, is now owned by his heirs.

Some other early settlers in the southern part of the township were Johnson McGinnis, who located on the farm later owned by Thomas Bailey, reared a large family, and left numerous descendants in Scrubgrass township; Moses Porter, who lived where Joseph Porter was later established; Andrew Porter, in the vicinity of Mariasville; Samuel Stewart, who first improved what was called the Knauss farm; and a squatter named Carr who made the first improvements on what was known as the Duncan tract, owned by non-residents. Along the bank of the river John Kerr made an improvement at a very early date, upon the site of Emlenton.

Of the region about Nickleville, in the northern part of the township, the pioneers were: James Say, John Donaldson, John Bell, William Nickle, William Adams, Daniel O'Neil, Samuel Huston, Alexander Sullinger, James Downing, William Davidson, John Levier, James Levier, John McDonald, Henry Mays, Andrew Weaver, George Myers, Robert Criswell, Washington Mays, Abraham Persing, Abraham, William, Jacob, Isaac and James Karns. James Say was the son of David Say, who settled in Scrubgrass in 1796. John Donaldson was the son of Andrew Donaldson, of Cumberland county, who settled on Slippery Rock creek, in Butler county, whence his son removed to Rockland township, Venango county, in 1815, settling the farm later owned by Levi Nickle. In 1822 he came into Richland, where he purchased 350 acres of what was known as the college lands. When he came here he had a family of five children. He sold half his purchase to John Bell, who was from Butler county. The latter's brother George came out first and made a small clearing, and the following year John Bell removed with his family. This property was owned by his son, George Bell. Other purchasers of the

college lands, which comprised twelve hundred acres and were sold by the county commissioners, were William Adams, Samuel Huston, Alexander Sullinger and James Say. William Nickle was from the North of Ireland, and first settled in one of the eastern counties of Pennsylvania, in 1821 moving to Clarion county, where he was occupied about the furnaces. In 1824 he came into Richland and made the first improvement where John Persing subsequently lived, in 1828 removing to the vicinity of Nickleville, where he purchased the improvements made by John Downing. John Levier, who was born in Butler county in 1799, of French parentage, came here in 1827 and made a location afterward occupied by his son, D. B. Levier. The next year came his brother, James Levier, who was born in 1796 and died in 1887. In 1831 there were two new arrivals in the neighborhood, George Gardner and Abraham Persing, the former from the Kishacoquillas valley, in Mifflin county, the latter from Union county. Gardner had purchased the property of James Say the previous year.

*Population.*—In 1870 the population of the township was 1,023; 1880, 1,221; 1890, 1,229; 1900, 1,134; 1910, 1,025.

*Towns.*—Nickleville is at the intersection of the Rockland and old Franklin roads, the latter the earliest road opened through this section, while another road leads to Richland Church. It was laid out by William Nickle, Jr., son of the pioneer of that name. He opened the first store there, was the first postmaster, and served many years as justice of the peace. At present there are two stores, a blacksmith shop and about twenty-five houses. The population is one hundred.

Mariasville was named in honor of the wife of Benjamin X. Junkin, magistrate of Richland township before its division and owner of that part of the village lying in Clarion county. Jacob Shirey was the original owner of the Venango part. In 1844 Joseph Schmidt, a native of Germany, bought eight acres from Shirey and cleared it for farming purposes. Meantime Emanuel Widle had made an improvement on the corner opposite Laughner's store, and Elias Widle established a foundry across the line in Clarion county. This was continued only a few years. M. O. Laughner was the first postmaster at this point, which is now on the rural route from Emlenton. There are about seventy-five inhabitants.

Keefer's Factory (post office formerly Porterfield, now served by the rural free delivery from Emlenton), known also as Santa Fe, was

for many years the leading industrial point in the township. Giering's mill was located there. David Shaw established a carding and fulling mill there in 1846. Good Intent Woolen Mills were built in 1856 by W. L. Keefer, and comprised a three-story frame building 35 by 60 feet, with engines of twelve horsepower and one set of cards. At one time ten or twelve thousand pounds of wool were manufactured annually into cloth, but this branch of the business was entirely abandoned long ago and exclusive attention given to yarns for country trade. The mills have now been discontinued, and only a house or two marks the site of the former place, and the crossroads. The post office was established in 1867 with W. L. Keefer as postmaster.

Dotter is a station on the Pennsylvania railroad. It receives mail by rural free delivery from Emlenton.

*Early Industries.*—Henry Myers built the earliest mill in Richland township, a structure of unhewn logs with a large stone chimney, the topmost stone bearing the date 1828, likely the date of erection. This mill was owned and operated by G. Washington Mays, a son-in-law of Myers, the property passing from him to Andrew Spinogle and John Goodman, from Lancaster county, by whom the last mill was built. Louis A. Giering was the next proprietor, and the mill was owned by his heirs.

William Adams, a tanner by trade, came into Richland in 1828, and established a tannery shortly thereafter on the farm that John Persing later owned. It was equipped with vats and a bark mill, but the proprietor did most of his work for a share of the product, receiving hides from the farmers and tanning them for half the leather. Robert Hewey operated this establishment for a time.

Stephen Arnold also had a tannery, on the farm of Leslie Adams, John Owens buying this property and conducting the business for many years.

The first carding mill was established by James F. Agnew, on Ritchey's run, two miles from its mouth, the place being known as Agnew's Mills. There is nothing there now. At the time of his death, Aug. 21, 1878, Mr. Agnew had been postmaster there more than fifty years, probably the oldest postmaster in point of service in the United States.

There were two distilleries, that of William Karns near Disler's Corners, and John Mulligan's, first located half a mile above Giering's mill and later removed to a point the same distance east of Keefer's Factory, on the road

leading from that place to the Emlenton road. At the period when the only way of disposing of grain was to drink what could not be eaten, the distillery was scarcely less often used than the gristmill. This distillery is not used any more.

Stapley Furnace was the scene of an active industry years ago. It was built by Charles and Richard Shippen, and named in honor of a connection of the Shippen family. It stood on Mill creek, five or six miles from the river, and the cupola, and some ruins of warehouse, storerooms and houses occupied by the operatives, are still to be seen, though long since fallen into decay.

#### CERRYTREE TOWNSHIP

Cherrytree township occupies nearly a central position on the northern line of Venango county. On the east it is separated from Oil Creek township by the stream of that name, Complanter and Oakland adjoin on the south, and Plum on the west. The area has not been materially reduced since the original division of the county into townships in 1806. As part of the proceedings of that date, however, Cherrytree and Plum were united under one administration, and not separately organized until 1817.

Sugar creek and Oil creek, the two principal streams of northern Venango county, drain the whole of Cherrytree. Little Sugar creek flows through the northwestern part of its territory, and Cherrytree run, a branch of Oil creek, has its sources in the central and southern parts, numerous smaller streams contributing to the volume of the latter after rapid but uneventful courses through the hills on the east.

*Pioneers.*—William Reynolds, the first permanent settler of Cherrytree, was an Englishman by birth, and came to America with his son John. Upon their arrival at New York they were promptly met by land agents, among whom were the representatives of the Holland Company. The representations of the latter induced them to make a journey to northwestern Pennsylvania, and they secured a 400-acre tract on Cherrytree run, embracing the site of the village and church of that name. This was in 1797. In the following year the father went to Philadelphia to meet the rest of his family and conduct them to their new home west of the Allegheny mountains. They were people of worth and respectability. The father was a Baptist in religious doctrine, but extended his

hospitality to the ministers of all denominations. In politics he was Democratic. He had four sons, John, William, Joshua and Edward A., and five daughters. Edward A. Reynolds held a commission as brigade inspector in the local militia.

In 1798 there were two arrivals, James Tuthill and John Strawbridge. The former was from the eastern part of the State and first located on the Irwin farm on the Oil Creek road, where he owned a 400-acre tract. He reared a large family, but none of the name are now residents in that locality. Strawbridge was from the upper Susquehanna valley, probably the vicinity of Williamsport, and formed his first acquaintance with western Pennsylvania as assistant to a surveyor, being thus employed in the neighborhood of Meadville when that city consisted of but two houses. In 1797 he purchased four hundred acres of land in Crawford county, and having sold this to James and Daniel McCombs secured 237 acres in Cherrytree, on the road leading from Cherrytree village to Breedtown. He married Elizabeth Lucas, sister-in-law of Francis Buchanan, a pioneer on Oil creek in Cornplanter township, and they reared ten children, six sons and four daughters. Two of the sons, William and Joseph, lived to be among the oldest citizens of the county. John Strawbridge was a soldier in the War of 1812. In politics he was a Democrat.

The Irwins of Cherrytree have been a prominent and influential family, not only in the township but throughout the county. Their progenitor was David Irwin, of County Armagh, Ireland, who married Margaret Berry in 1725 and reared a family of eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, six of the sons coming to America. The family in Venango county are the posterity of the son Richard, born in 1740, who in 1764 married Ann Steele at New London, Chester Co., Pa. Afterward he removed to White Deer township, Union (then Northumberland) county, where he was one of the members of a committee of safety formed for the protection of the Buffalo valley in 1778, and resided until his death in 1809. Four of his sons settled in Cherrytree at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Samuel, John, James and Ninian, a fifth, Richard, coming some years later.

Samuel Irwin was born Aug. 17, 1765, and married Jane Miller in 1795. He came to the township in May, 1802, and his first home was a 400-acre tract on the Wallaceville road. Afterward he bought the land of James Tuthill, above mentioned, where he resided until his

death, Sept. 10, 1847. He was the first postmaster in the township, the office, known as Cherrytree, being kept at his home. He was the father of eight children: Richard, Mrs. Fanny McKee, Samuel M., Mrs. Ann Chase, John, William, Mrs. Eliza Lovell and Mrs. Jane Curry. Richard Irwin, the eldest of this family, was its most prominent member. He served as deputy surveyor, county commissioner, associate judge, presidential elector, and member of the board of revenue commissioners that convened at Harrisburg in 1851. As a surveyor he stood in the front rank of his profession in this part of the State. Born in White Deer township, Union county, May 6, 1798, he died at Franklin Nov. 18, 1882, at the age of eighty-four.

John Irwin, born in Chester county, Pa., Jan. 24, 1768, came to Venango county in the summer of 1800 as assistant to Samuel Dale, the first county surveyor. He was a bachelor, and made his home with his brother Samuel. It is not probable, therefore, that he was a resident of Cherrytree until after the arrival of the latter. He was one of the first associate judges of the county and the incumbent of that office from 1805 to his death, Dec. 23, 1838. Judge Jesse Moore is said to have regarded him as the most able lay judge on his extensive circuit. He was an accomplished and accurate surveyor, built the first mill in the township, and was a large land owner.

James Irwin owned 400 acres on the Wallaceville road, now known as the Prather farm. He was born in West Fallowfield township, Chester county, Feb. 13, 1770, and died in 1827. His son Richard S. Irwin was a captain in the old militia.

Ninian Irwin located in the northwestern part of the township on land which went to the heirs of his son James. Born in Chester county May 24, 1774, his death occurred Aug. 10, 1826. He was elected to the office of county commissioner in 1805, receiving 210 votes, the largest number polled for any candidate at that election, the first after the organization of the county. He was an accomplished penman. The first schoolhouse in the township was built largely through his efforts, and at different times he taught in the local schools. For a number of years he was a justice of the peace. His son Ninian Irwin, Jr., was a surveyor and merchant, and the founder of Cherrytree village.

James Hamilton, a native of Ireland, immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1795, and settled in Center county. In 1801 he came to Venango, accompanied by his father, Thomas Hamilton,

and three brothers, Thomas, Hugh and Archibald. He located a mile west of Center schoolhouse, where Henry Buxton now lives, and there operated one of the first distilleries in the county. He had four sons: John, who was the second sheriff of Venango county and judge in Warren county many years; Richard; Hugh; and James, a soldier of the war of 1812, and at one time county commissioner.

Thomas Hamilton, who lived in the vicinity of Breedtown, had six sons, James, Thomas, Walker, John, Hugh and William, and four daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Hancox, Mrs. Margaret Hamilton, Mrs. Nancy Irwin and Mrs. Ann Stewart. Thomas, Jr., was county surveyor.

Hugh Hamilton located on the Oil Creek road where Mrs. William M. Lamb long resided. The farm originally secured by his brother Archibald, who removed to Ohio in 1820, was the scene of Drake's initial oil operations.

Elial Farr, a Yankee and probably from New England, came here with a family in 1801, and made the first improvement on the farm of E. Walker Hamilton. He was an early school teacher and magistrate. Although the only Whig in a Democratic community, he enjoyed great personal popularity, giving unusual satisfaction in his administration as justice. He removed to Ohio in 1819, and when he returned some years later on a visit was as pronounced a Democrat as he had formerly been a Whig.

Henry Prather, the first blacksmith of the township, had lands adjoining those of Samuel and James Irwin. He reared a family of three sons, Thomas, Henry and Abram, and several daughters. The Prathers arrived in 1801.

The early inhabitants included several Germans. George Tarr was the owner of several hundred acres of land, inherited by his son Martin, who has been dead many years. Andrew Coover located near Breedtown at an early date, and gave the name to Coover's run, a small stream flowing into Little Sugar creek. Jacob Casper was a resident of the same vicinity.

In 1801 also came Elisha Archer, who secured a 400-acre tract northwest of the Center schoolhouse, and then returned to his former home in one of the eastern counties. After marrying Hannah Staples he once more made the journey across the mountains.

Elijah Stewart, the second tanner in the township, was born in Chester county and came to Venango in 1802, having a tannery in

operation within a short time thereafter. He married Lydia Reynolds, daughter of William Reynolds, and they reared a large family. Mr. Stewart was reared a Presbyterian, and Cherrytree Presbyterian Church was erected largely through his efforts.

Edward Griffin and Manus McFadden, natives of Ireland, were the first Catholics in the township, the former coming from Huntingdon county in 1802, the latter from Westmoreland county in 1803. John Stiver, another early resident, planted the first orchard in the vicinity of Breedtown. William Wilson, who was from Center county, lived a mile north of Breedtown; he was twice married, and had fifteen children. Arthur Robinson was born in Ireland, came to this country in 1798, and moved from Center county to Venango county in 1803. Richard and James Ross owned one of the first distilleries here. Charles Ingram lived northwest of Breedtown. David Kidd and Robert W. Granger lived here a short time, moving farther west. Robert Curry, a brother-in-law of Jonathan Titus (founder of Titusville) and a soldier in the war of 1812, also resided here. Alexander Davidson, his neighbor, was one of the first settlers on the Oil Creek road.

James Alcorn, who came to Venango county in 1811, was an emigrant from the North of Ireland, and passed a winter in eastern Pennsylvania before continuing his journey to the "English settlement" near Titusville. He had five sons and one daughter, John, Andrew, Robert, William, Samuel and Jane (who married William Alcorn), and the family is yet numerously represented.

In 1818 Joseph Breed, a soldier of the Revolution, removed from Stonington, Conn., to the locality known as Breedtown. He was accompanied by three sons and two daughters, Charles, Nathan, John, Mercy (Mrs. Hancox) and Abby, and they bought land of John Stiver, who then moved to Ohio.

One other Revolutionary veteran, Samuel Lovett, resided in the township for a time during the early days, but removed to Crawford county.

In 1818 the following were listed as taxable inhabitants: Isaac Archer, James Alcorn, Joseph Armstrong, Benjamin August, Robert Curry, Jacob Casper, Andrew Coover, Michael Coover, Alexander Davidson, Daniel Fleming, Edward Fleming, Elial Farr, Hannah Gregg, Edward Griffin, Barnard Griffin, John Griffin, Robert Granger, Richard Hamilton, James Hamilton, Jr., Archibald Hamilton, Hugh Hamilton, Thomas Hamilton, James

Hamilton, Walker Hamilton, John Irwin, Samuel Irwin, Ninian Irwin, Charles Ingram, Samuel Kerr, David Kidd, Isaac Kellogg, Manus McFadden, William McCray, William McGinnis, William Reynolds, Henry Prather, William Reynolds, Jr., Joshua Reynolds, William Reynolds, Arthur Robison, Richard Ross, John Strawbridge, Elijah Stewart, John Stiver, George Tarr, John Tarr, Jonathan Titus, David Terrett, William Wilson, John Wilson.

*Early Industries.*—The first tannery in the township was established by John Stiver, and seems to have been discontinued when he left the township. The second, that of Elijah Stewart, was situated on Cherrytree run. At first the work was slow and laborious, the only apparatus being a number of wooden troughs, but later vats and a bark mill were provided. Andrew Stewart was associated with his brother in this business.

The first gristmill was built by John Irwin on Cherrytree run, and the location is a mill site to this day. James Alcorn built the second mill, on Little Sugar creek.

James Hamilton had a small distillery on his farm at an early date, his son Richard beginning the business when the father retired. James and Richard Ross were also engaged in the distilling business.

The first sawmill was built in 1823 by Ninian Irwin, the second in 1838 by Samuel Alcorn.

*The First Oil Well.*—Cherrytree contributed largely to the interesting and exciting episodes of the early oil discoveries. It was here that Drake's well was drilled in August, 1859, a short distance south of Titusville, an event which marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Western Pennsylvania. The first flowing well was struck in June, 1861, on the McElhaney farm in this township.

There is still a fair production of oil in the section near the town of Cherrytree, some drilling going on now. The oil territory here is long-lived. As an illustration, there are still paying wells near where Drake drilled the first well.

*Population.*—In 1850 the township population was 930; 1870, 2,326; 1880, 1,618; 1890, 1,246; 1900, 1,225; 1910, 1,071.

*Villages.*—Cherrytree, in recent years known as Skidoo, is situated on the road from Franklin to Titusville, a much traveled thoroughfare formerly known as the Oil Creek road, thirteen miles from the former, six miles from the latter, and nine from Oil City. As previously stated, the first settler on the tract em-

bracing its site was William Reynolds. The first house in the village proper was built by John Elder, a blacksmith from Center county. Isaac Newton erected the second, and opened therein the first store. His successor in this business was Ninian Irwin. That part of the village west of Cherrytree run was regularly laid out in 1850 by Richard Irwin, and the first house there erected by Hugh McClinton. One church, a public school building, one store, the shops of the local mechanics, and a population of about one hundred, constitute the town at present. It receives postal service by rural route from Titusville.

Breedtown had greater claims to village pretensions when the numerous family of the name first arrived than later. Even then the population was sparse, three or four houses within sight of each other being an unusual feature.

Alcorntown, also, is a thickly settled neighborhood, rather than a village.

Shaffer Farm, during the time that it was the southern terminus of the Oil Creek railroad, became a place of several thousand inhabitants, with all the features of an oil country town at that period. With the extension of the road farther down the creek it lost prestige, and has almost entirely disappeared.

Miller Farm also enjoyed an ephemeral existence and is among the many incidents of the oil business that have passed into oblivion. A railway station is still maintained there, however, and the mail service is rural free delivery from Pleasantville.

The post office of Pioneer was formerly at Foster Farm, but the locality is now served from Petroleum Center.

Boughton is a station on the Pennsylvania railroad, with mail service from Titusville.

*The Benninghoff Robbery.*—No event in the criminal annals of the oil regions created more widespread excitement than this bold and skillfully executed robbery. John Benninghoff, a farmer living in a secluded neighborhood a mile and a half from Petroleum Center, obtained an immense revenue from the oil discovered on his land. In consequence of a large loss through the failure of a local bank, and with little experience in the handling of large sums of money, he kept several hundred thousand dollars in a safe in his house. His hired man, George Geiger, was an accessory to the crime, which was planned at Saegerstown, Crawford county, by James Saegar, Louis Waelde, Jacob Shoppert and George Miller, in October, 1867. Saegar secured the services of four professional cracksmen of Philadel-

phia, Donnelly, Gordon, Wright and Fleming, to whom he was introduced by an ex-police-man named Thackeray, and on the evening of Jan. 16, 1868, Waelde accompanied them in a sled from Meadville to the farm. They succeeded in getting the contents of the safe, consisting of two hundred thousand dollars in currency and fifty-five thousand dollars in bonds, and returned with it to Meadville, where the loot was divided. Several of the minor participants were apprehended and convicted, but Saegar, the originator and planner, escaped to the West, where he lived many years.

#### PLUM TOWNSHIP

Plum township, originally included in Sugar Creek, was one of the townships established in 1806, from which date it was attached to Cherrytree for administrative purposes until its separate organization in 1817. A large part of Oakland and Jackson townships have been taken from its former area. It is the extreme northwestern township of the county, adjoining Cherrytree on the east, Oakland on the southeast, Jackson on the southwest, and Crawford county on the north and west. The surface is rolling. The township is essentially agricultural, and in this respect ranks with the best farming regions in the county. The different branches of Sugar creek drain the whole of its territory.

*Pioneers.*—Who the first settler was is not definitely known, but the most reliable evidence gives the honor to Benjamin August. He was born of German parentage in one of the Baltic provinces of Russia, and retained his German accent throughout life. He was probably the only native of Russia among the early population of the county. Immigrating to America immediately after attaining his majority, he evidently lived in the eastern part of Pennsylvania and followed his trade of tailor before settling in Plum township, where he secured 400 acres of land (including the farm later owned by his son F. M. August) on which he was living in bachelor style before 1800. His first clearing and cabin were but a short distance from the Meadville and Titusville road, and newly arrived settlers were frequently entertained there. He married Mary Miller, daughter of Frederick Miller, and reared a family of fourteen children. When the country became settled enough to create more demand for his services as a tailor he resumed work at the trade. For many years he was constable of Plum township, performing the

duties of that office with care and fidelity. He died March 9, 1850, aged seventy-nine years.

Jacob Jennings, a native of New Jersey, lived in Juniata county, Pa., immediately before his removal to Venango, where about 1800 he located on a tract of land which embraces that part of Bradleytown west of the Cooperstown road. He was the first blacksmith in the township, and frequently repaired guns for the Indians, of whom there were a number still in this section. He had a large family. Mr. Jennings was a Baptist in religion, and a Democrat in politics.

Samuel Proper, progenitor of the numerous family of that name in the vicinity of Diamond, was the only Revolutionary veteran who is known to have lived in Plum township, coming from Schoharie county, N. Y., in 1801. He made the trip by wagon by way of Erie and Meadville, and passed his first night in the county at the cabin of Benjamin August. His settlement was on the Meadville and Titusville road, at the crossing of Sugar creek, and it is likely that the burial ground on this farm is his last resting place, though no legible inscription has been found to locate the spot. Mr. Proper was of unmixed German descent, and although he spoke English when necessary in the transaction of business, used German entirely in his home. His family consisted of six sons and three daughters: Joseph, Samuel, Andrew, Barnett, Daniel, Jacob, Mrs. Samuel Beers (of Sugar Lake, Crawford county), Mrs. John Gates (of Indiana) and Mrs. Joseph Dipps (of Erie county), of whom Samuel, Daniel and Jacob were life-long residents of Venango county.

John Fetterman, who settled in the township before 1808, was of German origin and a native of Juniata county, Pa., a Lutheran in religion and a Democrat in politics. He served as a captain in the war of 1812. He reared a family of ten children.

Other notables among the early residents were John Lamberton, a native of Ireland, who came here from Juniata county, locating a mile northwest of Sunville; Jacob Grove, from Bellefonte, Center county, who located here in 1815; and John Davison, the first of that numerous family to settle here, arriving in 1829 from Butler county.

*Industries.*—The first mill in Plum township was the one built by John G. Bradley at Bradleytown; the second that at Wallaceville, built by one Rodgers, and still in use as a gristmill; and the third built in 1843 by John Grove. Later he also had a distillery in connection.

The only distillery in operation at a very early date was owned by John Lambertson.

*Population.*—The census of 1850 shows a population of 835; 1870, 1,140; 1880, 1,116; 1890, not given; 1900, 1,027; 1910, 2,066.

*Towns.*—Sunville, which attained the dignity of a borough in 1879, though not now so governed, lies ten miles from Franklin on the old historic Le Boeuf road. It is the oldest village in the northwestern part of the county, having been founded in 1837, and according to the census of 1880, the first after its incorporation as a borough, had a population of 108. It is probably a little less than that at the present time. It had an academy famous for excellent teachers and work, in the early eighties, which is now the high school for the township.

W. W. Davison, by whom the town was laid out, removed from Centerville, Butler county, in 1835, locating on a farm which embraced the site of the village, with his residence a short distance to the south. He was a man of business enterprise and public spirit. Having platted the town he offered the lots at public sale, and although the location was then covered with woods succeeded in making his venture profitable. He was the first postmaster in this part of the county, opened the first store in the village, and at his death, in 1862, was serving as associate judge of Venango county. He had been justice of the peace many years. He was one of the first elders of Sunville Presbyterian Church, and throughout his life an active supporter of that organization.

Samuel Hays was another of the patriarchs of the place. Born in Donegal, Ireland, March 17, 1776, he lived to the age of ninety-five. He came to America in 1793 with his father's family, two of his sisters dying of yellow fever during the voyage across the Atlantic. They lived in Mifflin county, Pa., and in Barree township, Huntingdon Co., Pa., Samuel Hays moving thence to Venango county. He made the journey with his household goods stored in a covered wagon, reaching his destination Oct. 25, 1835. He had been chorister of a Presbyterian Church at Manor Hill, Huntingdon county, and the Sunville Church was organized at his home.

Robert McClellan and Mrs. Mary McFadden built the first houses in the town, Mr. McClellan's a hewed log dwelling standing on the east side of Franklin street (later the site of W. W. Thompson's home). He was a wagon-maker by trade, though he farmed principally during his residence here. Mrs. McFadden was a widow, and supported her family by weav-

ing. The first house on Green street, a hewed log building on the east side, was built by James Hays, cooper.

During the oil excitement the town enjoyed a boom in the manufacture of oil barrels, but with the falling off of the production it dropped back to the even tenor of its way.

On Jan. 27, 1879, the town was incorporated as a borough, the first town council members being: J. C. Richey, W. G. Billig, Paul Messner, John Matthews, Samuel Hays and W. K. Gilliland, with S. Thomas as first burgess. The population in 1910 was 92.

Chapmanville (Plum), the largest town in Plum township, is situated on four corners on the Oil Creek road, the shortest route between Meadville and Titusville and before the opening of railroads through this part of the State a much traveled thoroughfare. A man named Carver was the first settler on the town site, but he evidently did not remain long, as nothing else seems to be known about him. The next was David Chapman, for whom the place was afterward named, and who came here from Diamond and had a small log house diagonally opposite from Whitman's store. His brother, Ezekiel Chapman, built a frame house on the site of the hotel. David Chapman was a worker in wood. The first merchant at this location was Eli Holder. There are three churches and one store. The post office was named Plum, but the place is now served from Diamond. The present population is about 150, containing 38 dwellings, a schoolhouse and two churches. W. F. Whitman entered the mercantile business there in 1879, having one of the most successful general stores in the county, now conducted by W. F. Whitman & Son.

Wallaceville, situated in the eastern part of the township on Sugar creek, derived its name from W. W. Wallace, of Pittsburgh, who purchased the property and intrusted its management to a Mr. Brown, by whom the village was laid out, lots sold, store and post office established. A man named Rodgers built the gristmill, but Mr. Wallace acquired that also. The mill is the first one built there, and had an overshot water wheel. It is now run by a turbine wheel. It is still patronized by the local farmers, the output being buckwheat flour, corn meal and feed. Wallaceville now contains, besides the mill, a store, a church, the shops of several mechanics, and perhaps a dozen houses, with a population of about forty. It is on a rural route from Diamond.

Diamond, seven miles from Titusville and

twenty from Meadville on the main road between those places, is the most northerly village of Venango county. It sustains a public school, church, and one store. The first store was opened by Homan & Tracy. The first house was built by Andrew Proper and sold by him to David Chapman, founder of Chapmanville. Luke Eddy kept hotel at Diamond for many years. The present population is 80. Three rural free delivery routes are served from this point.

Bradleytown was started by John G. Bradley, who came to this country from Ireland in

1790 with his father and brother Robert and moved to Venango county from Huntingdon in 1816. He located on a tract of land embracing that part of Bradleytown east of the Cooperstown road, and built a grist and saw mill. Before his arrival Jacob Jennings, the first blacksmith in the neighborhood, settled on an adjoining tract. The first merchant was J. M. Smith. Before the post office was established the place was popularly known as Frogtown. W. H. Bradley was the first postmaster. The service is now by rural delivery from Cooperstown. The population is about fifty.

## CHAPTER XXV

### TOWNSHIPS AND BOROUGHS (Continued)

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP—FREEDOM (PITTSVILLE)—SCRUBGRASS (KENNERDELL)—PINEGROVE TOWNSHIP—CENTERVILLE—LINEVILLE—CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP—SALINA (CRANBERRY)—SALEM CITY (SENECA)—MONARCH PARK**

#### ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP

This township, authorized at the original division of the county into townships under the name of Rock, changed to its present form, however, at once, was first attached to Richland for government purposes. It was probably organized as an independent township in 1817, and the returns of John Porterfield, the first assessor of the township after it acquired individual autonomy, contain the names of the following inhabitants taxable at that time: Enoch Battin, William Craig, James Crawford, Joseph Campbell, William Campbell, John Cochran, John Donaldson, William Davis, James Donaldson, John C. Evans, William Graham, John Graham, William Hill, John Jolly, David Jolly, Joseph Kennedy, Thomas Kennedy, Adam Kearns, Alexander Lemon, James Moorhead, Matthew McDowell, Andrew Maitland, John McDonald, Samuel McMillin, John McMillin, Thomas W. Mays, Thomas W. Matteson, Joseph Stephenson, John Porterfield, James Porterfield, Joseph Redick, Matthias Stover, John Shannon, John Sloan, John Stover, John Thompson, John Watt, Jacob Young, David Smith. William Bingham's estate owned a number of one-thousand-acre tracts; originally it included nearly the whole township.

It is generally supposed that John Watt was

the first settler, and the time of his arrival has been placed as early as 1809. He was of Scotch-Irish descent, came from Butler county, and brought a family. The farm that he first improved was later owned by the heirs of James Campbell, his son-in-law.

Shortly after Watt's arrival came Andrew Maitland, originally from Monroe county, N. Y., and a resident of Butler county, Pa., immediately prior to his settlement in Rockland. His first location was in the vicinity of Freedom, whence he removed to Barr's Corners. Major Maitland, late of Oil City, a grandson, came into possession of the family homestead. Andrew Maitland was a prominent man in local affairs, and an active member of the Presbyterian Church.

John Sullinger, a soldier of the Revolution, had come to the township in 1805 and secured a 400-acre tract of land, to which he removed with his family in 1813. He and his wife, Louisa (Judge), were natives of Westmoreland county, and their family consisted of twelve children: John, Alexander, Peter, Samuel, James P., Jacob, Andrew, Daniel, Annie (Mrs. William Karns), Elizabeth (Mrs. Adam Karns), Mary (Mrs. James McDonald) and Catharine (Mrs. James Hoffman). The father was a mason by trade. He died at Warren, Ohio, about 1845, at the age of ninety-one years.

The first justice of the peace commissioned for Rockland township was James Crawford, who made his home at Davis' Corners and owned the land upon which that hamlet was built. In time he removed to "The Meadows," in Cranberry township, where he was also one of the earliest settlers.

In 1815 John Donaldson, son of Andrew Donaldson, originally of Cumberland county, and a settler on Slippery Rock creek in Butler county, moved to Rockland from the latter location and located on the farm later owned by Levi Nickle. In 1822 he moved to Richland, selling his interest in Rockland to Peter Works, a foreigner, and by trade a cabinetmaker, whose skill in fashioning fanning mills, churns, coffins, etc., made him a valued member of the community.

John and David Jolly, the progenitors of the family of that name in the county, were originally from Westmoreland, and were among the early settlers in the vicinity of Freedom, where they are still represented.

Enoch Battin, born in Huntingdon county in 1785, settled in Scrubgrass township in 1806 and some years later came into Rockland. During the war of 1812 he was a member of Captain Witherup's company.

Other early settlers were Matthias and John Stover, the former living where James Jolly later settled, the latter at Woodhull station, immediately below Black's siding. Later they removed to Pinegrove township, being pioneers in the locality of Centerville.

Peter Lovell originally located on the farm that included the site of Barr's Corners.

John Hetzler came to this locality in 1818 from Monroe county, N. Y., and purchased a hundred acres of land later owned by his son, John Hetzler, Jr. He returned with his family the following year, bringing all the household effects on one wagon. At that time the only improvements on the property were a one-story log house and barn.

David and Daniel Smith, the first blacksmiths, were brothers from Penn's valley, nine miles east of Bellefonte, Center county, the former coming first and locating half a mile east of Davis' Corners, later owned by Abraham Lusher. He came out in the winter, hauling his effects on a sled, and brought no stock except two horses, while Daniel brought five cattle and twelve sheep. His family and household goods made the ten-days journey in a five-horse wagon, their transportation costing him one hundred dollars. Several years later Jacob Smith removed from the Nittany val-

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ley, in Center county, and bought the farm of Squire Crawford at Barr's Corners.

William, Samuel and Joseph Ross, brothers, came here unmarried men, probably accompanied by their mother, and had land between Davis' Corners and Freedom, though not adjacent to the road. They are said to have owned the first wagon in the township. All three married daughters of William Davidson.

The first improvements along the river were made by the following: William McClatchey, at the Dotter siding above Emlenton; William Craig, at the mouth of Shull's run; John, William and Samuel Graham and their father, at St. George's siding; Abraham Witherup, justice of the peace and captain in the war of 1812; Daniel McMillin, from Franklin county, who settled in Victory township in 1803 and several years later crossed the river to McMillin's Bend, where with his son John he was drafted for service in the war of 1812; and William Hull, who lived at Brandon's ferry, named after John Brandon, who settled there in 1827.

In the eastern part of the township one of the earliest settlers was John Haggerty, who was born in County Londonderry, Ireland, son of Nicholas Haggerty, a wheelwright by trade, who had emigrated to America before the Revolution, and eventually drifted to Allegheny county, where his wife and all his family were killed or captured by the Indians. With nothing to keep him here, he returned to Ireland. But two of the sons survived, and after some imprisonment in western New York made their escape and returned to Pittsburgh, where they were received into the family of John Hanlan. John Haggerty became a noted Indian fighter and commanded a company of rangers that did considerable service in protecting the frontier. In 1812 he located on a tract of 250 acres at the mouth of Pine run. Being a millwright by trade, he assisted in the erection of many of the mills in this part of the county. His nearest neighbor was John Prior, from Walker township, Center county, whose farm of 150 acres later was owned by heirs of Charles Cox, his son-in-law. Silas Brown, son-in-law to Andrew Maitland, settled a mile and a half from the mouth of Pine run, coming from Harmony, Butler county. John McDonald, a native of Scotland, who also came here from Harmony, planted one of the oldest orchards in the county.

*Industrial Development.*—The only gristmill in the township in 1818, a round-log structure on Shull's run, with one run of buhrs, was owned by William Craig, and the three saw-

mills by Joseph Kennedy, William Craig and John Porterfield. Some years after the construction of his gristmill Craig added a paint mill to the original establishment, grinding native iron ore into a preparation from which vermillion paint was made. The second mill was probably that erected in 1826 on East Sandy by Henry Myers. Originally it had a tub wheel and one run of native stone, but in two years was substantially rebuilt and more extensively equipped, and it was operated many years by John Myers. In 1835 Andrew McCaslin (sheriff of the county) built a mill at the mouth of Shull's run. Joseph Porterfield had one on Mill creek, at the crossing of the Emlenton road. Joseph Kennedy's establishment at Freedom, on Shull's run, was probably the first sawmill in the township. It was sold to Alexander Lemon, who operated it some years. There were other early sawmills on East Sandy and other streams.

John Porterfield ran the first carding machine, in a small but substantial stone building that remains as one of the few specimens of pioneer architecture extant. It is likely that this machine was placed in position as early as 1820. About the same period John Shaw operated a carding mill on Shaw's run, a mile from East Sandy.

There were three distilleries in the early days, one on the farm of John Jolly, near Freedom, one on Abraham Witherup's farm near Miller's Corners, and another on the farm of Enoch Battin. Whiskey was considered a necessity in those days.

The only tannery was that of Robert Bell, on the farm acquired by the heirs of David Smith, and was conducted on a cooperative basis, the tanner getting a share of the leather in payment for his work. It was equipped with vats and a bark mill. A number of years later James Martin established a tannery near Miller's Corners.

The furnaces of Rockland were an important adjunct to the development of the iron ore deposits of the locality, at that time considered the only valuable mineral resources. Andrew McCaslin erected the first, known as Rockland Furnace, on Shull's run, Craig's mill dam furnishing the water power necessary to drive the blast. McCaslin became insolvent and had several successors in the ownership of the furnace, Rockwell, Dempsey & Wick, William Spear, and E. W. & H. M. Davis, respectively, the Davises conducting it until its suspension in 1854. Porterfield Furnace, built in 1837-38 by Joseph Porterfield, on Mill creek, half a mile from the river, was operated only

by the original proprietor and Charles Shippen. In 1838-39 the Webster Furnace was built by Wick & Dempsey, a mile from Georgeville on Bear run, a branch of Pine run, and when the firm became bankrupt the stock was closed out by Hogue & Huston and the business was discontinued.

*Population.*—In 1890 the township had a population of 1,957; 1900, 1,745; 1910, 1,662.

*Villages.*—Freedom, situated in the midst of a pleasant and fertile agricultural district, occupies a site originally owned by Enoch Battin and John Donaldson. The first person to live there was John Gray, whose house was on the west side of the road, at the spring. Joshua Davis was the first merchant, and among his contemporaries were William Woodburn and George Gates & Brother. Andrew Borland was the first blacksmith and kept the first hotel. There was an ashery conducted by John Goodwin, who obtained a variety of valuable products from wood ashes. E. W. & H. M. Davis were the proprietors of a foundry. The town was laid out in 1865, by James Woodburn and E. Chadwick, the latter suggesting the name Freedom, but the post office was named Pittsville, in honor of Charles Pitt Ramsdell, the first postmaster. The population is less than one hundred now. The village contains one store and a dozen houses.

Scrubgrass is situated at Kennerdell station on the Allegheny Valley railroad, opposite the mouth of Scrubgrass creek. Its earliest name was McMillin's Bend, Oliver McMillin having the first house there, a primitive log structure that stood at a point now between Cross's store building and the railroad. The place had no pretensions as a village until the discovery of oil, when Mr. McMillin sold his farm to the McMillin Oil Company. William Cross opened the first store in 1867, by which time the settlement consisted of three houses—McMillin's, the Mackey hotel on what was afterward the site of the "Williams House," and the Cross store. The next three years saw rapid growth, and there was another active period during the Bullion excitement. Several destructive fires visited the place, the last in 1878. In 1867 John A. Canan secured the charter to operate the ferry, his successors therein being Richard Kennerdell, Williams & Van Fleet, and Hulings, Simcox & Stowe. From the fall of 1879 to February, 1881, the Allegheny, Kennerdell & Clintonville railroad bridge afforded a means of crossing the river. A second ferry was established in 1882 by J. R. Williams, A. Hahn and others, and from that time the legality of the franchise originally

granted to Canan was in litigation until 1888-89, a decision of the Supreme court passing favorably upon its validity and ending a legal struggle which interested the entire community. The old ferry by that time had passed into the ownership of D. K. Buchanan.

Davis' Corners is on a site originally owned by Jacob Smith. He sold to John S. McKean, from whom the place derived its first name, McKean's Corners. Charles Shippen established the first store, and William Gates succeeding to the business for a time the place was Gates' Corners. The next merchant was H. M. Davis, in whose honor the present name was adopted. The post office at this point is known as Rockland, and Daniel Smith was the first postmaster appointed. The population is probably 250, there being about fifty houses, a church and one store here now.

Smith's Corners, at the intersection of the road from Brandon's Ferry to Freedom with the road from Falling Springs to East Sandy, was certainly so named with eminent propriety, there having been seven families of Smiths living upon the land settled in 1834 by William Smith a half century after his arrival. Now there are two or three houses, placed near the four corners. Rockland is the post office.

Barr's Corners is on land originally owned by Milton Barr, a hamlet not quite a mile from Rockland. No business was established here for a number of years, and a blacksmith shop is the only business place now. Here twenty-five people reside.

Miller's Corners is situated at the intersection of the road from St. George's siding to Davis' Corners, with the road from East Sandy to Rockland station. James Miller opened a store there, hence the name, but only the cross-roads are there now.

Georgeville is a little settlement on Pine run, in the eastern part of the township, named in honor of George S. Myers, who came here in 1833 from Harford county, Md., and in 1835-36 built a mill upon the same site as the one erected in 1879. Half a dozen houses and a church are the only other buildings at the point.

Coal City, in the northern part of the township, is a hamlet with a population of 23. It has rural free delivery service from Kennerdell.

Fanning is a little station on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad in the northern part of the township.

Foster and Brandon are stations on the Pennsylvania railroad, which received their mail from Kennerdell.

Roberts Run, another station on the Pennsylvania railroad, at the mouth of Roberts run, is on the north side of the river.

St. George, the next station below on the Pennsylvania road, receives its mail from Pittsville.

Farther on, around the bend in the river, are Rockland at the mouth of Shull run (mail Emlenton), Blacks (at the lower point of the bend) and Woodhill (mail Emlenton).

#### PINEGROVE TOWNSHIP

Pinegrove township is bounded by President township on the north and Cranberry township on the west, on the south and east being Ashland, Elk and Washington townships of Clarion county. Tionesta township, Forest county, forms part of the northeastern boundary. The surface is much diversified. Porcupine creek and Reis run, branches of Hemlock creek, drain the northeastern part; Sandy creek flows through the township a distance of three miles, and with its two affluents, Glade and Prairie runs, waters the southern portion; Horse creek receives a few unimportant tributaries from the western section.

Upon petition of a number of citizens of Pinegrove and Farmington townships made at August sessions, 1823, it was ordered at February sessions, 1824, that the former should be organized, and that Farmington and Toby's Creek should be provisionally attached thereto. The boundaries of Pinegrove at that time were as follows: "Beginning at the north corner of Fairfield township on the Allegheny river, thence up the same to the west boundary of tract No. 2,844 granted to William Willink and others, thence south to the southwest corner thereof, thence east to the northeast corner of tract No. 2,826, granted to William Willink and others, thence south to the southeast corner of tract No. 2,801, granted to William Willink and others, thence west to the east boundary of tract No. 2,539, granted as above, thence south to the corner thereof, thence west to the southeast corner of Fairfield township, thence by the same north to the place of beginning." Farmington was separately organized in 1828, and in 1866, upon the annexation of part of Venango to Forest county, Pinegrove was reduced to its present limits. It is one of the smallest subdivisions of the county.

*Pioneers.*—In 1786-87, ten years before this region was regularly opened for survey and settlement, Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pa., received a grant of land from the State, of

which three thousand acres were located in the central and southern portions of Pinegrove, surveyed in nine tracts of about three hundred acres each. In consideration of an appropriation in money, this was allowed to revert to the State, and it was resurveyed in eighteen tracts in 1823. A still larger holding was that of the Lancaster Land Company, successor to part of the interests of the much larger association known as the Holland Land Company. Among the members of the former were Henry Shippen and Samuel Miller, who upon the dissolution of the company and the division of its lands by lot came into possession of large areas in the township. This region was surveyed in tracts of 990 acres, one mile wide,  $523\frac{3}{10}$  rods long. Tracts Nos. 2,541, 2,566, 2,634 and 2,678 upon the survey were allotted to Miller; Marvin Perry bought Nos. 2,531 and 2,535 from the county commissioners; Shippen's holdings aggregated about five thousand acres. At present it is difficult to understand that settlers could hardly be induced to take these lands at two dollars an acre.

What is known as the State road was originally opened in 1812, for the transportation of military and naval stores from the East to Lake Erie. The Hemlock road was also opened at an early date. King's highway was so named, it is supposed, from "King David," a local character whose home was along that road, and who earned his title by his attempts to rule in politics.

When the first permanent settlers came in there was a hunter's cabin on the State road built, and occupied by John Hicks, Sr., whose name appears among the taxables of 1805, assessed at forty-one dollars. It was afterward occupied by Ebenezer Kingsley, who was also assessed in 1805, at eleven dollars. While game was plenty hunting was profitable, the bounty on old wolves having been ten dollars, and on young ones five, and two wolf dens are still pointed out, one in the hills of Sandy creek and the other in the northern part of the township. The timber was burned over every year, and afforded excellent pasture.

H. G. Spofford, the first to come in with the intention of settling, bought a large tract from Shippen, expecting to sell out at a profit to smaller purchasers, located here in 1817, and made some slight improvements on the farm later owned by George Powell. But he never paid anything on his purchase, and left in 1819, afterward establishing "Spofford's Magazine" in one of the Eastern cities. A Swiss family named Amsler moved into the house which he vacated, but remained only a few years. Sam-

uel Powell, who settled here July 19, 1818, was from Concord, N. H. He had been a soldier in the war of 1812, after which he engaged in the shoe business in Albany, N. Y., where Shippen was then advertising his lands. He started for the west with a two-horse team, and at Olean transferred the household effects to a "family boat," by which they were safely carried down the river. The horses were to follow by bridle path, but were lost through the dishonesty of the guide. The first white child born in the township was George W. Powell, the date being Feb. 5, 1819.

Jeremiah Johnson, also from Concord, N. H., located on land owned by Thomas McLoughlin, and worked for Spofford a year and a half with the promise of land in payment, but lost all his labor when the latter became insolvent. In the spring of 1819 A. G. Siverly moved into Powell's house, and his improvements were made in the vicinity of Unionville. This family afterward gave the name to Siverly borough, now a part of Oil City.

Among the first settlers in the neighborhood of Centerville was John Stover, whose two brothers, Peter and Matthias, came later. This family was originally from Maryland, and had lived in Rockland township previous to their location here, being attracted by the apparent smoothness of the land. John Stover cut a road from Sandy creek, four miles, over which he drove the first wagon into this part of the township. George Blosser settled near him in 1830, bringing a large family from the Nittany valley. Marvin Perry, later county commissioner, located on tract No. 2,531 in the southwestern part of the township. On May 16, 1834, John McCalmont settled on what became afterward known as the Deshner farm.

There was a settlement of Massachusetts people north of Unionville, the names of Gilson, Hale, Whitney and Dimond appearing among these early residents. Two brothers named Gayetty, also from that State, were here as early as 1828. Among the first improvements in the central part of the township were those made by William Walker, an early school teacher, and Alexander Craig, who was an old man when he came here. Henry Schwab, Sr., bought part of the Dickinson tract. Jacob Byers, a native of Fayette county, born in 1798, was an early resident near Lineville. One of the first deaths was that of Ebenezer Kingsley's little son, who was fatally bitten by a rattlesnake in 1816; his sister died the following year, and their graves were marked by a rude inclosure of rough logs in a secluded spot on the State road.

For some years settlers depended for their milling on Best's mill, on Pine creek, a branch of the Clarion river (fifteen miles distant), and a mill on Deer creek a mile from Shippensburg, Elliott's mill, established at the mouth of Hemlock creek, and that of Henry Myers, on East Sandy at the crossing of the old Susquehanna turnpike, afterward became more convenient. The first mill in the township, built in 1834 on East Sandy by J. F. Rickenbrode, has not been in use for years. Ephraim Kulp built the first sawmill, on Prairie run. No stream in the township has sufficient power to operate a mill, and steam has not been introduced for milling use, consequently there are no mills in the township now.

*Population.*—In 1890 the township had 1,234 inhabitants; 1900, 1,265; 1910, 1,132.

*Villages.*—Centerville was laid out in 1859 by Jacob Dietrich, on a site previously owned by Andrew Campbell and David Derkson, and he built the first house, near that occupied by his family for many years. Dietrich was from eastern Pennsylvania, and located first in Beaver township, Clarion county, removing to Pinegrove prior to 1840. J. H. Stuck built the first hotel, put up a sign, and intended to call the town Lorrahville, after another small village near St. Petersburg, Clarion county, but James Anderson suggested Centerville, because the location was midway between Fryburg and East Sandy, President and Kossuth. The post office, however, has always been called Fertigs. There are two churches in the town, two stores, a hotel, and perhaps thirty houses. The population in 1918 is probably 150.

Coal Hill is only an elevated region underlaid with coal and gas, where the Hampton station of the Speechley gas field is located.

The crossroads called Coal Hill or Unionville was the mail distributing point of a thickly settled locality for some time. It was laid out in 1865. Its thirty inhabitants now receive their mail from Fertigs. The telegraph office is at Hampton gas station. There are telephones at different places in the township.

Lineville—Venus post office—is partly in Clarion county, as the name suggests, and stands at the intersection of five roads. It was laid out in 1854 by A. W. Owen and Samuel F. Plumer, each having eighteen lots, offered for sale at twenty-five dollars apiece. At that time the country east of the county line was all woods. There was but one house, that afterward long occupied by J. W. Kahl, who opened the first store in 1860. Mr. Owen opened a hotel in 1867. The population has been about

a hundred for many years. There are now two general stores, two groceries and two millinery establishments.

In 1880 the Lineville Anti-Horsethief Company had more than a hundred members, with the following officers: T. E. Baker, president; Simon Korb, treasurer; A. L. Byers, secretary. The membership doubled in the years from 1880 to 1890. The coming in of automobiles having decreased the number of horses, the need of horsethief catchers is not now so great. Doubtless the older members of the "Antis" could tell some interesting tales of social conditions in the early times of this section.

Gas City had a spectacular beginning fifty years ago. First some large oil wells attracted the usual crowds. This soon ceased, when some fine gas wells were struck which burned for a time, converting night into day and winter into summer. The "city" is now off the map.

#### CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP

Cranberry township, the largest subdivision of the county, borders upon the Allegheny river a distance of twenty miles. It has a populous and diversified territory. The principal streams are Horse creek, Sage run, Lower Two Mile run and Hall's run, the last a branch of East Sandy creek.

On Feb. 4, 1830, "Upon the petition of divers inhabitants of Cranberry township, east of the Allegheny river and now attached to French Creek township" for separate organization, the court appointed Barnhart Martin, Benjamin Junkin and John Jolly commissioners to inquire into the necessity and propriety of the proposed change, on which they reported favorably at April sessions. Cranberry township was thereupon organized with the following boundaries: "Beginning at the mouth of the Six Mile run on the Allegheny river, keeping up the main branches of the said Six Mile run until it crosses the east line of a tract of land warranted in the name of William Willink and marked on the draught of the county No. 2,528; from thence a north course along the east line of the following tracts of land warranted in the name of William Willink and marked on the above mentioned county draught by the numbers 2,529, 2,549, 2,552, 2,661, 2,670, 2,683 and 2,687; and from thence continuing a straight line until it reaches the Allegheny river at a point where Pinegrove township reaches the said river, and from thence down the said river to

the place of beginning." This differs slightly from the language used in defining the township in 1806, when it was originally laid out under the name of Fairfield. For many years Salina was the place of holding elections, but on Aug. 26, 1886, three election districts were formed, and contributed greatly to the public convenience.

*Pioneers.*—The township was first assessed individually in 1831, in which year the following taxables were listed: Samuel Alexander, William Robert, James and Elliott Brandon, David C. Cunningham, William Craig, Samuel Culbertson, John Caseman, William Dickson, James Eaton, Thomas Curry, Jacob Foreman, Charles, John, and Joseph Gayetty, James Gray, Samuel Howe, Cornelius Houser, Jacob G. Houser, John Hays, James Haggerty, Patrick Harrison, Samuel and Edward Hall, Zelotus Jewel, James and Joseph Kennedy, Jacob and Isaac Karns, Samuel Lindsay, Stephen, John, and James Lindsay, James Lamb, Davis McWilliams, John McBride, John and James McQuiston, John McCool, John and Seth McCurry, Gates Manross, John and James Moorhead, Alexander McWilliams, Henry and John Myers, William Nellis, William Parker, William Prior, John Peoples, Thomas Porter, William Stewart, David Stover, Peter Smith, Isaac Smith, Israel Simpson, Ephraim Turk, James and William Thompson, Allen Williams, and Jacob Zeigler. Of unseated lands Thomas Astley owned twenty 1,000-acre tracts, upon which the aggregate tax was one hundred and five dollars. William Bingham, John Nicholson, Henry Shippen and S. Wright were also holders of unseated lands.

It is most likely that the first settlements were made near the river. Beginning at the mouth of East Sandy creek, the most southern point in the township, the earliest settler was Samuel Lindsay, who did some farming and eked out his income by work on the river. Some years later he moved across the river into Victory township, and thence to Meigs county, Ohio. A Welshman named Thomas was the earliest resident at the mouth of Lower Two Mile run and did work about the furnaces, moving to Scrubgrass when Anderson's Furnace was erected there; he was drowned. The first improvements on the Porter farm were made by a man named Seidels, who disposed of his interest to Patrick Harrison in the early days. Andrew Downing was the first settler at the Cochran flats, and one of his nearest neighbors was Isaac Smith, who kept the ferry at Franklin, then located between the Franklin and Big Rock bridges, selling it

to John Hastings, who kept inn at the "red house," and died in Sugar Creek township. Smith subsequently removed to Franklin and then to Bully Hill, where he died. In 1825 a settlement was made half a mile above the mouth of Deep Hollow by John Hays, a veteran of the war of 1812 and a pioneer of the county, who died in 1876 at the age of ninety-six. The farm immediately above was first owned by Samuel Howe, who removed to Oil creek. Joel Sage came to Venango county in 1807 and settled on the stream which has since borne his name.

The first settlers in the interior of the township were four brothers, John, William, James and Elliott Brandon, who came to this country from Ireland and first lived near Big Spring, Cumberland Co., Pa., whence the sons removed west. John lived six years in Pittsburgh and five years in Allegheny, where he was engaged in seine fishing, but after his removal to Cranberry he farmed and kept hotel. William, who had considerable local fame as a hunter, located in Sandy Creek township, this county, before 1801, enlisted for service in the war of 1812 after his removal to Cranberry, and held the office of constable for many years. Elliott lived on the bank of the river, where he owned an island. One member of the family later removed to Steubenville, Ohio, and others settled elsewhere, leaving few representatives in the county.

An important event in the early history of Cranberry was the construction of the Susquehanna and Waterford turnpike, begun in 1818 and finished in two years. The old Franklin road crossed East Sandy at the mouth of Zeigler run, and a bridge was built there by John Houser and his sons Peter and Philip. This was one of the earliest public works of any importance undertaken by the county. The bridge was entirely of wood, constructed of hewed timbers, even the floor, and was fifty-five feet long. James Dickson and Samuel and Edward Hall obtained the contract for the two miles of the pike west from East Sandy, and built a cabin for the accommodation of the men at the sixty-sixth milestone from the Susquehanna river, near a fine spring of water. They obtained provisions for them by flatboat from Pittsburgh, except the meat supply, plentifully provided by the game of the surrounding forests. James Dickson was the son of Benjamin Dickson, originally from Ripley, N. Y., and an early settler near Meadville, Crawford Co., Pa. The Halls were natives of Ireland. They built a mill on Hall's run, which was named

for them. Up to this time no settlements had been made in this part of the township.

The large body of comparatively level land in the eastern part of the township known as "The Meadows" had among its early settlers James Crawford and Joseph Kennedy (the latter from Cumberland county, Pa.), both of whom had previously lived in Rockland, where Crawford was the first justice of the peace. James Kennedy, son of Joseph, settled there in 1825, having two years previously made an improvement on the farm later owned by Perry Huff, and who married Mary Crawford, daughter of James; they had seven sons and one daughter. Between the farms of Joseph and James Kennedy was the tract of 156 acres occupied by James Thompson, who was here before 1825, as was also James Moorhead, who lived near Ten Mile Bottom. In 1823 John McCool removed into this neighborhood from Scrubgrass, and improved a farm on the mill road, his brother Alexander McCool coming in the year 1842. In 1833 Cornelius Houser purchased a tract of 275 acres on the road leading from East Sandy to Tionesta, which he improved. He was the grandson of John P. Houser, a Revolutionary veteran, originally from Lancaster county, Pa., who first settled in Venango county at the mouth of Big Sandy creek and was afterward ferryman at Franklin. In 1835 Alexander Shannon, from Brush Valley, Center Co., Pa., came to the township and located at the place later occupied by his son Peter. He was the first justice of the peace elected here, and continued to serve as such thirty-three years.

The first to follow the Brandons into the vicinity of Salina were William Dickson, Alexander Strain, Zelotus Jewel, Ephraim Turk, Samuel Culbertson and William Parker. Dickson came from Center county, and was a brother-in-law to John Prior of Rockland, where he had settled before his removal to Cranberry. Here he died, and both his sons, James and Jonathan, removed to the West. Alexander Strain, who came from Butler county, owned a hundred acres a mile west of the town, but his wife having inherited property near Murrinsville, he returned to Butler about 1830. He was a Catholic in religion. Jewel first moved from New York State to White Oak Springs, Butler county, before coming to this township, where he owned land on East Sandy creek, which he eventually sold to John Gray, returning to Butler county. He was a well known business man. Ephraim Turk and Samuel Culbertson were brothers-in-law. The former's property was on the hill

above East Sandy, a mile from Salina, and was sold to Samuel Hall when he returned to his former home in Butler county. Culbertson was especially well known for his fine physical development and great strength. William Parker, formerly a resident of Mercer county, lived on the pike a mile from East Sandy. He was a son-in-law of John Blosser, a pioneer in Pinegrove township.

The first settler along the State road in the northwestern part of the township was James Eaton, a native of New York State, who came thence to Crawford county and in 1825 to Cary's Furnace, at the mouth of Oil creek. He hauled ore, owning two teams. He purchased 200 acres of land on the State road a mile from the river, and having hewed the logs for his house had it erected in one day with the assistance of his fellow workmen at the furnace, the family taking occupancy April 15, 1826. The brick house which he built in 1844 was the first of its kind in the township, and probably the first in the county outside of Franklin. At one time he owned and operated Van Buren Furnace, but later in life removed to Ohio. He died in Indiana. After Eaton's arrival came Michael White and Michael Frawley, natives of Ireland who had been living in Northumberland county, the latter remaining until his death. White sold his farm and moved to Ohio, dying near Canton, that State, and his family returned here. Matthew Gibbon and Joseph Gillman were also early residents along this part of the State road.

In June, 1830, Jacob Zeigler settled on a tract of 144 acres of uncleared land which he had purchased from the Bingham estate, on the pike two miles from East Sandy. He was born within eighteen miles of Baltimore, moved to Center county, Pa., in 1816, thence to the Tuckyhoe valley in Huntingdon county, and the forks of the Juniata. By trade he was a blacksmith. Peter Smith was also living on the pike that year, and several years before them arrived William Prior, who was from Center county. Owen Boyle settled on the farm afterward owned by his daughter, Mrs. John Byrns, and there reared his family of ten children, eight sons and two daughters. He was born in Ireland, and had previously lived in Lancaster and Lebanon counties after coming to this country. His son-in-law, John Byrns, came to the township in 1834.

The settlement of the Salem City neighborhood was inaugurated with the development of the iron industry. A half mile east of the town lived John McCurry, Nicholas Lake, Silas Tibbits and William Stewart with their families.

forming a hamlet known as Yankeetown. These men were engaged in digging and hauling ore. William Craig lived at the site of Salem City, but all these were here only for a short time. The first permanent residents were Constantine Daugherty, who came in 1831, and William Allison and Samuel McKinney, who arrived in 1832. Mr. Daugherty was born in County Donegal, Ireland, and was nineteen years old when he came to this country, working at iron furnaces in eastern Pennsylvania, chiefly Huntingdon and Center counties, before his removal to Venango county. He first came out in June, 1831, and bought 200 acres, bringing his family and household goods out in October with a three-horse wagon. He lived to be eighty years old. Allison, who came out in the spring of 1832, was from the Nittany valley in Center county. Samuel McKinney was born in 1786 in Chester county, Pa., and died in Venango county in 1871. He was living in Center county when the war of 1812 broke out and volunteered for the service, taking part in Perry's victory on Lake Erie and being voted a silver medal by the State legislature for conspicuous gallantry on that occasion. John McBride and Hutchinson Borland were early settlers on the State road east of Salem City.

The southwestern part of the township was originally settled by David McWilliams, James McWilliams, John McCracken, William Thomas, John Heasley, Alexander McQuiston and David Ayers.

*Population.*—Cranberry had 2,337 inhabitants in 1870; in 1880, 2,434; 1890, 3,275; 1900, 3,321; 1910, 2,770.

*Towns.*—Salina—Cranberry post office—is seven miles from both Franklin and Oil City, and connected with both by good roads, the old Susquehanna and Waterford turnpike leading to the county seat. North of that road the land was originally settled by J. H. Milroy, a blacksmith, who lived in a log house at the eastern extremity of the village, and probably named the town. In 1835 he purchased fifty acres from Thomas Astley and laid out that part of the place; the part south of the pike being platted in 1865 by James Brandon. He was the first hotelkeeper, having the "Seven Mile House" on the west corner of the Oil City pike and John Brandon conducted the "Weeping Willow," a later hotel. Smullin & Steffee, Mrs. L. D. Barr and Jones & Mohney were among the first merchants. The place experienced its early growth and greatest prosperity when the coal business was flourishing, and with its decline lapsed into a quiet coun-

try village. Along in the eighties oil developments in the vicinity ushered in another era of activity. There is now a steady but smaller production of oil. Farming is the general and profitable occupation.

The post office has always been known as Cranberry, and was first kept by James Allison half a mile distant from the village. After it was removed to the town Mrs. L. D. Barr was the first postmistress, retaining the position twenty-one years. Salina's population is now 200.

The Brandon cemetery, a short distance north of Salina on the Oil City turnpike, is the oldest public burial ground in the township.

Salem City—Seneca post office—began with the dwelling of Nicholas Lake, who arrived in Cranberry township Aug. 27, 1828, intending to engage as teamster with Stockbarger, Norris & Kinnear, who were then building a furnace at the mouth of Oil Creek. He located on the State road, ten rods from the crossroads in Salem City, where he built a one-story log cabin. He was a native of Dutchess county, N. Y., and lived four miles from Buffalo during the war of 1812. Later he lived at Erie and Meadville before coming to Cranberry township, whence after three or four years he removed to Clarion, and subsequently to Ohio. His death occurred in Mercer county, Pennsylvania.

The second house was that of William Craig, the first permanent settler, which stood opposite Lake's. He had moved from Buffalo to Chautauqua county, N. Y., at the same time that Lake moved thence to Erie, and followed him to this locality a little later, owning a farm which included that part of the village east of the State road and on which he resided until his death. He sold part of this land to John Crownogle, a German, who came from Center county, and who in turn sold in 1842 to Andrew McCurry, by whom the town was laid out and named. McCurry had then been in the county sixteen years, having settled in this township opposite the mouth of Oil creek, where he owned farm land embracing the present site of South Oil City. When he removed to his home at Salem City, April 12, 1842, there were only two other cabins in the village, those of William Stewart and Albert Long. Mr. McCurry entertained travelers, taught the first school in the neighborhood, and opened the first store at this location in 1862. The opening of the Cranberry coal banks brought a large population into the neighborhood, which gave him the idea of laying off a portion of his land into lots, and the town grew

rapidly within the next few years, but it subsequently came to depend largely upon the activities of the oil industry for its prosperity. The country round about is also a fine agricultural region. The post office at this point is known as Seneca, and Mr. McCurry was the first postmaster. The place has a present population of about 250, has paved streets, fine residences, and supports a live weekly newspaper.

Hill City was so named for the Hill family, and began with the excitement caused by the discovery of oil on the Dallas farm in June, 1886. It was situated upon the land of Samuel Hill, Cyrus S. Marks and George Powell laying it out for him, and within a short time a score of houses had been built. Mung & Hockman and Hoy Brothers were the first merchants. The excitement dying out within a year, the people began to leave. Now there are the crossroads, two or three houses, a schoolhouse, and two plants to make gasoline from natural gas, condensed and combined with lighter parts of oil found in a dozen or so small wells, owned by George Torrey of Oil City, and Mr. Dinsmore of Oklahoma. There are good farm lands throughout this section, and fine gas wells owned by the United Natural Gas Company, which is also extracting gasoline before selling the gas. There are probably pools of oil here yet, but finding them is a lottery, and expensive. The land is a better, surer source of wealth, if it were worked, than the oil and gas. Hill City at one time had two thousand people surging about it, but now it appears like open country—the "movies" have gone.

Ten Mile Bottom, or Tipperary, was appropriately named, lying ten miles from both Franklin and Fryburg, on the State road. George McCool and Owen Reed were early settlers in this vicinity, the former conducting a small grocery. The first general store, however, was kept by William Thompson. There are now a dozen dwellings, store, and blacksmith shop, and a population of fifty. A post office was formerly at this point, but the service is now from Oil City.

Bredinsburg was a lively oil village in 1870, and at one time contained forty houses, besides a schoolhouse, a church and a store. It is now only a rather thickly settled farming highway. The place was named in honor of Maj. James M. Bredin, a leading oil operator in this section.

Prentice is a settlement of two or three houses on the Pennsylvania railroad one mile

above Franklin, from which city it receives the mail.

Sedgwick, post office Oil City, consists of three or four dwellings at the mouth of Deep Hollow, small oil wells—a dozen or more nearby, and a repair shop and good market gardens, worked by the Schruers of Oil City.

Maple Shade, post office Cranberry, has two dwellings and one general store. There are fine farm lands, with natural gas and moderate oil production adding to the wealth of the owners, scattered about.

East Sandy, or Van, has a population of seventy-five, two general stores and one grocery, and a large pump station of the United Natural Gas Company. Many small oil wells are at hand. Good farms are in the vicinity.

Reed is a small hamlet a half mile below Franklin, on the Allegheny Valley branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, and some trains stop there. Post office, Franklin.

Venango is a small hamlet below Reed on the same road, where accommodation trains stop. Post office, Franklin.

Astral, which has rural free delivery service from Kennerdell, has only two or three houses since the Astral refinery was removed. Some trains still stop there on signal, to accommodate people living in the neighborhood.

A schoolhouse, burial ground, and scattered houses along a country road constitute what is known as Pinoak.

*Monarch Park* was opened by J. B. Smithman, and was known as Smithman's Park until another company bought out his electric railway, including bridges and the park between Oil City and Franklin. Lying midway between these cities, the park is situated in a beautiful natural grove of many acres. Mineral springs abound here. Mr. Smithman found in an old deed a description of the locality as "the seven springs deer lick." There are sweet springs of pure water and mineral waters of various kinds and in great abundance. Here are beautiful flower beds, a menagerie, fine walks, large restaurant and dining hall, dance hall, afternoon and evening concerts, movies, merry-go-rounds, the usual "thrillers" of the summer resort, kitchens with free hot water and stoves for picnic parties. It is a favorite place for conventions, and celebrations of different kinds; placed centrally in the county, and accessible by trolley, autos or carriages. The ride between the two cities via the park is diversified and interesting—two miles in the river valley at each end of the route, through Deep Hollow and lower Two Mile run, and includes much characteristic local scenery.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### TOWNSHIPS AND BOROUGHS (Continued)

CANAL TOWNSHIP—CANAL (HANNAVILLE)—CORNPLANTER TOWNSHIP—PLUMER—PITHOLE CITY  
—PETROLEUM CENTER—ROUSEVILLE—SIVERLY—OLEOPOLIS—KANE CITY—ROCK-WOOD (ROCK-MERE)—SANDY CREEK TOWNSHIP—OAKLAND TOWNSHIP—DEMPSEYTOWN—JACKSON TOWNSHIP—COOPERSTOWN BOROUGH

#### CANAL TOWNSHIP

Canal township was created from Sugar Creek Nov. 28, 1833, and was so named because the old French Creek canal ran along its southern border. It is in the western part of the county, and is bounded by Crawford county on the north, Jackson and Sugar Creek townships on the east, French Creek township on the south, and Mercer county on the west. The topography is agreeably varied, with high and broken surface along French and Sugar creeks, and gently rolling land in the interior. The hills along French creek afford many picturesque views, while in striking contrast are the cultivated and beautiful valleys in the various parts of the township. The settlers found it covered with a dense forest growth, most of which has disappeared, much of it ruthlessly destroyed in the process of clearing, to develop farms. The soil is of surprising depth and fertility, and the township is prominent in the county as an agricultural district, with bountiful yields of all the fruits and cereals raised in first-class farming sections. Stock raising also has engaged the attention of her people to some extent.

The township is well watered and drained, a number of water courses traversing it in various directions. The most important is French creek, which forms the southern boundary and affords an outlet for numerous smaller streams, among which is the west branch of Sugar creek, known also as Muddy run, flowing through the central part of the township. Others are Beatty run, Sutley's or McCune's run, and smaller creeks with no particular names, but important in the drainage of the country. Numerous springs of the coolest water are to be found issuing from the hills in

various parts of the township, the majority of the people obtaining their water supply from these sources.

*Pioneers.*—Though other claims to priority of settlement have been made, the Johnston family appear to have been the first white people to settle within the present limits of Canal township. It is well established that Hugh Johnston and several sons, all grown men, came to the county as early as 1797 and located claims in the vicinity of Utica, the father making his first improvements about a mile east of the site of that borough on what afterward became known as the Service place, and the son Alexander opening a farm a half mile up the creek. If any previous settlements were made in the township, it is not definitely known. Hugh Johnston was a native of Ireland, and came here from Huntingdon county, Pa., from which section were many other early settlers of Canal and the adjacent townships. He was a man of forceful character, an intelligent and reliable citizen, and one of the leading men of his community. He died early in the last century and was buried in the old Johnston graveyard, the first place set aside for burial purposes in the township. Of his sons the best known was Alexander, who like his father was an influential spirit in the development of the country, was an active business man, and acquired a valuable tract of real estate. He reared a large family, his sons Hugh, Jr., Anthony, Alexander, Robert and James later becoming substantial citizens of the township. Robert Johnston, brother of Alexander, Sr., settled on what was the old Hasson homestead about two miles east of Utica, and James, another brother, lived with his father until the latter's death and then became owner of the home farm. Descendants

of this old family still live in Canal township, and are ranked with its best citizens.

During the decade between 1798 and 1808 there were a number of pioneers of whom we have but meager records, and it is impossible to name all the early residents in the order of their arrival. John and James Foster were among the permanent settlers in the northeastern part of the township, living near Sugar creek valley. John Foster had three sons, William, Archibald and John. William occupied the home farm, but his sons and those of his brothers appear to have removed to other townships; the name is familiar in this section of the county. James Foster was a major of militia in the old days, and long known by his title and for his excellent personal qualities.

Jacob Whitman, who settled about a mile and a half northwest of Canal Center at an early date, had several sons, viz.: John, who eventually settled in Sugar Creek township; William, who educated himself for the medical profession and practiced successfully; and Jonathan, who went out to Illinois. Thomas Logue, a typical backwoodsman, settled with his four sons, John, Alexander, Hugh and George, on what later was the Elwinger place a half mile east of Utica. Early in the nineteenth century Thomas Smiley, familiarly known as "Uncle Tom," made a settlement on French creek about a mile and a half below Utica, but he subsequently disposed of the place and removed to Franklin, where his sons Armstrong, James, John H. and Philip also lived, the name being still prominent there.

In the central part of the township one of the first settlers was William Brown, who came here from New York State and located at Canal Center, developing a farm and conducting a tavern which was for years a well known stopping place on the old stage route over the Susquehanna and Waterford turnpike, and called the "Brown House" or "Long Porch House." It is said that many hours of good cheer and conviviality were spent under its hospitable roof. William Brown was proud of his service in Washington's army throughout the Revolution. His sons Henry, Amos, Royal, Horace and Oliver may also be classed with the early settlers of the township.

Three miles north of Utica Luther Thomas, a local minister of the Methodist Church, settled on what was later the Black farm, and about the same time Christopher and Michael Sutley made improvements, the former on a farm two and a half miles east of Utica, the latter near Canal Center. John Coxson, another early settler three miles from Utica, had

two sons, William and John, the latter becoming an artist and a successful lawyer in western Pennsylvania.

James McCune was in the township before 1805, coming from eastern Pennsylvania and settling on French creek opposite the Heydrick farm, improving the place later occupied by his grandson James McCune, Jr., where the pioneer died in 1840. His son William was born here in 1806, and lived in Canal until his death, in May, 1889.

One of the best known pioneers in the neighborhood of Canal Center was Joseph Deets, who settled a little southwest of the village and accumulated a valuable property, later occupied by his son Samuel; he was noted for his energy and business tact.

In 1809 John Hastings was living two miles east of Utica, at the place where his son William later resided. About this time also William Hood made a settlement on the Harrison farm, two miles northwest of Utica, and his sons, William, John, Moses, Samuel, James, Blair and Thomas, became respected citizens of the township. In the Whitman neighborhood Samuel and Lewis Burson were early arrivals. John Wilson, one of the first justices of the peace, made improvements on what was later known as the Frazier farm, near the Sugar Creek line. John Duffield, formerly a resident of French Creek township, came thence to Canal in the early days and developed a farm a mile and a half from Utica. His three sons, John, William and Philip, were all well known in Venango county, and the family is still creditably represented here. Samuel, John and Alexander Ray were also early settlers, though it is not known where Samuel located; John purchased the Hood farm east of the village, and Alexander made his first improvements on a farm east of Utica, which was subsequently purchased by Thomas Singleton, who can therefore be classed with the early settlers.

Samuel Black, who settled about two miles above Utica, was an active business man and an early township official. One of his first neighbors was John Daily, who subsequently made another location in the township. Jacob Luper, who lived in the vicinity of Canal Center, was a public-spirited citizen, furthering church and school enterprises, and his posterity have kept the name in esteem. He had seven sons, John, Andrew, Barnett, Wesley, Hiram, Sylvester M. and Jacob P.. Barnett and Sylvester continuing to reside here for many years. Jacob Luper's brother Thomas settled in the same neighborhood, and also Wil-

liam, James, John and Andrew Hill, brothers, who made improvements around Canal Center. Near the Mercer county line Henry Hart was an early settler, his sons Abraham and Samuel Hart also settling there. William Harrison was in the township before 1820. In 1824 John L. Hasson, one of the earliest settlers in French Creek township, moved into Canal, establishing his home about a mile and a half from Utica, at the place later occupied by his son John C. Hasson. Several others of his family settled in the vicinity of the old home-stead, William, Hugh, James S., Mrs. Angeline Boughner and Samuel D. The father was an honored resident of the township until his death in 1885, and the name is held in great respect down to the present.

Other early settlers of record in different parts of the township were: John Cooper, who lived in the Hasson neighborhood; William and David Gilmore, near the present site of Utica; Jacob Siner and W. P. Clough, near Canal Center; William and John Boughner, near Hannaville (Canal); John Mawhinney, two and a half miles east of Utica; together with Samuel Bean, William Wright, Abiel Sweet, Chancy Hart, Mr. Rifenberg, John Douglas, George Douglas, Adam Peters, Mr. Marsh, Thomas Hefferman, Thomas Williams, M. H. Clough, William Smith, Isaac Hanna, John Graham and sons James and John, David Taylor, William Hays, Thomas Beightol, John Mead, John McQuaid, Jonathan Boyer, John Andre, Thomas Aten, David Crouch, Silas Crouch, William Cooly, John Paden, John White, John Menter, Joshua Woods, Samuel Anderson and William Groves.

*Population.*—In 1880 the township had a population of 1,030; 1890, 959; 1900, 883; 1910, 786.

*Industrial Activities.*—A number of attempts have been made at different times to bring to light the hidden wealth of oil and coal which lies beneath the wooded hills and verdant valleys, but without material success. Canal township is essentially an agricultural region, and as such ranks among the best farming districts of the county. But little attention has been given by residents to manufacturing enterprises of any kind, the only efforts in that direction having been a few lumbering mills and a flouring mill, nearly all of which ceased operations a number of years ago. All such have now been abandoned.

The first mill in the township was a small affair for the manufacture of lumber, built by Royal Brown on Spruce run, whose waters furnished the power. It was in operation only

a few years, and did a small but rather profitable business. John Hastings erected a flouring mill in the eastern part of the township when the country was new, which did a good business for its capacity. It was a good-sized frame building, and was supplied with fair machinery, turned by the waters of Spruce run, being operated until about 1845. On the same creek Jacob Siner built a sawmill in an early day, about two and a half miles above the gristmill, operated it himself a few years and then sold out to John Luper, who rebuilt it and installed improved equipment, operating with fair success for some time. It has long stood idle, the dam having broken down many years ago. Another early establishment was the sawmill of William McClure on Black's run, in the northwestern part of the township, afterward sold to James McCune, the last to operate it. The building stood long after it was dismantled. Martin Lubold erected a sawmill in the north central part of the township.

An ashery for the manufacture of potash was built by Jesse Shields about 1847, about a mile and a half northeast of Utica, but he gave up the business a couple of years later.

Canal, formerly known as Canal Center and for many years as Hannaville, is the only village in the township. Its location near the geographical Center of the township accounts for the first designation, while that of Hannaville was given in honor of Isaac Hanna, the name of Canal being finally adopted about 1867-68. William Brown made the first improvement there, his tavern, already mentioned, having been opened for the accommodation of the public as early as 1819. It was afterward kept by Isaac Hanna, then by J. L. Foster, and others. About 1846-47 a stock of goods was brought to this point by L. M. Hanna and Erastus Hart, who were associated for a few years in merchandising, Mr. Hanna then becoming sole owner of the store, which he carried on successfully on his own account until succeeded by his brother, W. H. H. Hanna. The latter formed a partnership with a Mr. McKissick, and other merchants doing business there from time to time have been Luper & Boughner, Bean & Luper, Clough & Taylor, Mr. Sherrett, W. L. Boughner and E. M. Brown (who began business in 1863).

About the year 1842 John Luper engaged in the manufacture of threshing machines here, and met with encouraging success, continuing the business a number of years. When he discontinued his original line he turned to the

manufacture of wagons, in which he also prospered, his son being subsequently associated with him therein, and the firm remained in existence until 1883, when the business was abandoned.

There was formerly a post office at this point, known as Canal, but the place now has rural free delivery service from Utica. The population in 1910 was 33.

#### CORNPLANTER TOWNSHIP

In determining the material development of Venango county Oil creek has played as important a part as French creek did in its earlier history, especially in Complanter township. Here the production, transportation and manufacture of petroleum first took definite form. Enormous fortunes have been expended in this territory, and the wealth received is counted in millions. Here populous towns with thousands of inhabitants succeeded one another with magical swiftness.

*Early Settlement.*—James Ricketts, a native of New Jersey, born May 18, 1766, was the first white settler in this township. He was a hunter, familiar with frontier life in all its phases, and came to Venango county in the summer of 1795. Finding the game here plentiful, the Indians friendly, and the incoming settlers agreeable, Mr. Ricketts decided to stay. In 1810 he bought 300 acres from the Holland Company, situated at the source of Cherry run, and built a mill on that stream, one of the first within the original limits of Allegheny township. He was twice married, first to Sarah Prather and after her death to Jane McCalmont, and was the father of twenty children, one of whom was yet living in the township thirty years after the father's death, which occurred March 6, 1857. He was a Democrat in politics, and his religious connection was with the old Seceder Church at Plumer.

Hamilton McClintock, from Sherman's valley, Cumberland county, arrived in the spring of 1796. He obtained a tract of 400 acres in the valley of Oil creek, above the Complanter reservation, embracing the site of McClintockville, on which tract was an oil spring inclosed by an embankment cribbed with hewed timbers, from which twenty or thirty barrels of Seneca oil were taken annually. It sold for seventy-five cents to a dollar a gallon, to be used principally for medicinal purposes—a welcome addition in those days to the income of an Oil creek farm. Mr. McClintock was the first assessor of Sugar Creek township after the organization of the county. He married

Mary Culbertson, and they were the parents of the following children: Jane, Hugh, James, Ann, John, Isabella, Culbertson, Mary, Rachel, Elizabeth and Hamilton. The father, born May 31, 1771, died May 9, 1857. He served many years as an elder in the Associate Reformed or Seceder Church at Plumer.

Francis McClintock, who came in 1797, was born April 4, 1775, probably in Maryland. He built a cabin at the site of Petroleum Center and lived there two years, supporting himself by the cultivation of a small plat of cleared ground and hunting. In 1799 he returned to the eastern part of the State and secured a yoke of oxen, with various other necessities, in the spring of that year again coming to his residence here by way of Pittsburgh. He was a shoemaker by trade, and after there were enough settlers hereabouts to keep him busy followed that calling in the winter, occupying himself during the summer months with clearing land and operating a sawmill. To his marriage with Rachel Hardy, of Harrisville, Butler county, were born nine sons and three daughters: Hugh H., James R., John, Hamilton, Francis, Alexander, William P., George W., Andrew J., Rachel, Ann and Nancy. The son James R. McClintock, born at Petroleum Center in 1804, opened the first store at Dempseytown, this country, and kept hotel there many years, served as justice of the peace, and attained the rank of brigadier general in the State militia.

Ambrose Rynd, one of the most notable residents of the township, arrived in Oil creek valley in 1800. He was born in 1738 in Ireland, where he followed the occupation of wool factor, succeeding by industrious application to his affairs in accumulating \$1,200, a comfortable sum for those days, which he brought with him to America in 1799. His first location was in Westmoreland county, Pa., where he worked by the day to support himself until he saw a favorable opportunity for investment. The next year he purchased 500 acres in Venango county from the Holland Land Company, lying on both sides of Oil creek, built a cabin and made a settlement, passing the rest of his days in agricultural pursuits. He lived to the advanced age of ninety-nine years, honored among his neighbors for his integrity, and his descendants continue to rank with the best citizens of the country. Much of his property is still owned in the family, and the region thereabouts has long been known as Rynd farm, a station on the Pennsylvania railroad bearing that name. His wife died in Ireland, and his son John, born in

1777, came to America with his father and died here in 1849. He and his posterity are more fully mentioned in the biographical section of this work.

The Prathers, another prominent family of Cornplanter, traced their lineage from an Episcopal clergyman who settled at Williamsport, Washington Co., Md., Henry Prather, who came to Pennsylvania as an officer in the English service and settled in Franklin county after the cessation of the Indian warfare, being probably his son. He was born Sept. 14 (o.s.), 1732, and married Elizabeth Hicks, their son Thomas Hicks Prather, born April 2, 1755, being the first of the family to come to Venango county. The latter's wife, Elizabeth (Crounkleton), was of Dutch descent. The family were well-to-do, but Thomas H. Prather having lost the bulk of his property decided to attempt to retrieve his fortunes in the newer part of the country and came to Venango in 1801, with his sons Abram C. and Robert, then fifteen and thirteen years old, respectively. After arranging for the purchase of a 400-acre tract and building a cabin, he supplied the boys with sufficient provisions and left them in charge of his holding, while he returned to the East for the rest of the family. The Indians stole all the boys had except the cornmeal, but they managed to get along with that and what other food they could secure through their own efforts and help from kindly neighbors. When the father returned, three months later, he decided to locate near the river, and removed to East Hickory, Forest County, where he remained until his death, Feb. 15, 1818. The son Abram, born Sept. 19, 1786, returned to Franklin county and learned tanning. He was drafted for military service in the war of 1812, and on the expiration of his term visited his father at East Hickory. The land where he had lived as a boy in the winter of 1801-02 being still unoccupied, he decided to complete the purchase, and with the exception of the time he served as a volunteer in the defense of Erie and other brief absences passed the remainder of his life in the township. He built a log house on the Warren road east of Plumer, and later a frame dwelling at that location, where he followed tanning and became a respected resident of the neighborhood. For many years he was a trustee of the Associate Reformed Church at Plumer. By his marriage to Sarah McCalmont, daughter of Henry, he had ten children: Henry M. (of New Wilmington, Pa.), Mrs. Mary Hatch (of Plumer), John S. (of Cleveland), Mrs. Sarah E. Bemus (of

Jamestown, N. Y.), Abraham S. (of Jamestown, N. Y.), Mrs. Ruhana R. McClure (of Cleveland, Ohio), Julia A., Jane W., George C. and Robert T. A. The father died July 7, 1850, the mother Dec. 26, 1874.

According to the records Noah and Jesse Sage had two tracts of land aggregating 837 acres surveyed for them Sept. 2, 1802, by Samuel Dale, the same adjoining Cornplanter reservation on the river and including the site of Siverly. The survey was made on a warrant issued by virtue of settlement and improvement, but they did not complete the title, though it appears that one or both remained in the county.

Joseph Allender was the earliest settler in that part of the township through which Allender run (a branch of Pithole creek) flows, building a cabin on the line of two tracts of the Holland Land Company, which he seems to have intended to acquire in addition to the one hundred acres allowed by the company as a gratuity. He had cleared about sixty acres when a season of protracted drought left him nothing to meet his obligations, and he left his property. The cleared land went back to its wild state, and his house was burned by a forest fire before 1837. Lucien Hatch purchased the place in 1850, and it is said that after the first cultivation grains and vegetables of various kinds grew spontaneously, evidently from seeds resting there for years.

In 1803 Francis Halyday located at the mouth of Oil creek, on what is now the site of the Third ward of Oil City. For a time Francis Culbertson lived at the mouth of Cherry run, but early removed to President township, and is mentioned in connection with the settlement at Henry's Bend. Francis Buchanan owned the place inherited by his adopted son, John Blood, and long known as the Blood farm. James Story had land on both sides of Oil creek, that lying east of the creek being afterward known as the Tarr farm, and that on the west going into the ownership of the Columbia Oil Company. He had two sons and two daughters, Robert (who moved to a location on the Ohio river), William (who stayed on the farm until the oil discoveries), Jane and Elizabeth. The father was drowned in the Allegheny. Hugh Morrison lived on Cherry run adjoining James Ricketts, and reared a large family who became highly respected citizens; several of his sons were known as ardent abolitionists. Before 1805 Joseph Lamb settled west of Humboldt, on the Oil City road. Moses Davidson was an early settler at the site of Rouseville. Robert

McFate was also a pioneer, as he was assessed in 1805 at \$116, on the duplicate of Allegheny township.

In 1820 Abram G. Siverly settled at the mouth of Siverly run, and is mentioned below in connection with the account of the borough which long bore his name.

In the southeastern part of the township, William Shaw was the first and for many years the only resident, making a settlement in May, 1821. He was a native of Center county, Pa., son of William Shaw, an early settler on Sugar creek, and himself secured several hundred acres of land on the line of an Indian path which led from the river at Henry's Bend to the mouth of Oil creek, following almost the same course as the road from Plumer to President. He married Elizabeth McCalmont, sister of Judge Alexander McCalmont, and reared a family of ten children.

Henry McCalmont, who also arrived in this township in 1821, was born in Mifflin county, Pa., and lived in Center county before his removal to Sugar Creek township, Venango county, in 1819, that year making a location near his father and brothers, who had been in the locality some years. In 1821 he removed to near Plumer, on the old Warren road, where he opened a house of entertainment, and was long a prominent citizen of the township, serving many years as a justice of the peace. A stranger who stopped for lodging at his house was found in his bed in the morning unconscious, and died within a brief time. He was buried on the farm, and the incident influenced Mr. McCalmont to set aside a plat of ground for burial purposes, so he gave the site of the United Presbyterian Church at Plumer and the graveyard adjoining. His children were: John, Thomas W., Henry, Robert, Alexander, Sarah (Mrs. Prather) and Elizabeth.

The assessment list for 1834, the first after the organization of the township, shows the following taxables: Thomas Anderson, Joseph Anderson, William Alcorn, Robert Alcorn, John Atkinson, Robert Adams, Francis Buchanan, John Blood, James Bannon, James Crary, W. & F. G. Crary, Seary Cary, Francis Culbertson, James Culbertson, Patrick Culbertson, Robert Culbertson, Moses Davidson, James Downey, William Fletcher, James Gordon, Charles Gordon, Nancy Griffin, Samuel Hazen, Benjamin Hazen, Samuel Hays, Sarah Halyday, James Halyday, Andrew Howe, John Hewey, William Hewey, Samuel Lamb, John Lamb, William Little, Hugh Morrison, Thomas Morrison, Matthew

Morrison, John Morrison, John McFate, Joseph McFate, Samuel McFate, William McCrea, John McKissick, James McClintock, Hamilton McClintock, Culbertson McClintock, Francis McClintock, Hamilton McClintock, Jr., William Masterson, William Martin, Henry McCalmont, John McCalmont, Patrick McCrea, Michael McCrea, Edward McCrea, John Neill, John Noacre, Christopher Potter, Abraham Prather, Samuel Pearson, John Rynd, Ambrose Rynd, Brooks Rynd, James Rynd, James Ricketts, Thomas Ricketts, Henry Ricketts, Abraham Ricketts, Elijah Stewart, Richard Stewart, Joseph Shulze, William Story, Jane Story, A. G. Siverly, Elathan Siverly, William Shaw, Benjamin Snodgrass, William Steen, Daniel Tuttle, Jacob Teets, Richard Willings.

*Organization.*—In 1806, when the county was divided into townships, provision was made for two subdivisions from this territory, Oil Creek and Windrock, the former west and the latter east of Oil creek. But they existed only in name. The court decree formally erecting Cornplanter, promulgated Nov. 28, 1833 described its boundaries as follows: "Beginning at the southwest corner of tract No. 240 of the Holland Land Company's claim warranted in the name of Henry Lahr, thence along the southern boundary of the same and the southern boundary of tracts No. 241 and 242 eastwardly to the southeast corner of the last mentioned tract, thence by the eastern boundary thereof northwardly to the northwest corner of a tract surveyed in the name of Thomas Morrison, thence along the northern boundary of the same eastwardly to the northeast corner thereof, thence by the western boundary of tract No. 66 of the aforesaid claim northwardly to the northwest corner thereof, thence along the northern boundary of the same and the northern boundary of tracts Nos. 75, 106, and 123, eastwardly to the northeast corner of the last mentioned tract, thence by the eastern boundary of the same and the eastern boundary of tracts Nos. 122, 121, and 120 southwardly to the south boundary of said claim, thence along said boundary eastwardly to the line of Tionesta township, thence by said township line southwardly to the Allegheny river, thence down said river to the southeast corner of a tract surveyed in the name of Robert Alcorn, thence along the eastern boundary of the same northwardly to the northeast corner thereof, thence by the eastern boundary of tracts Nos. 263 and 264 of said Holland Land Company's claim northwardly to the southern boundary of tract No.

259 of said claim, thence by the same eastwardly to the southeast corner thereof, thence along the eastern boundary of the same northwardly to the southwest corner of tract No. 258, thence by the southern boundary of the same eastwardly to the southeast corner thereof, thence along the eastern boundary of the same and the eastern boundary of tract No. 252 northwardly to the northeast corner of the last mentioned tract, thence by the western boundary of tracts Nos. 248 and 247, the western boundary of a tract warranted in the name of James Brown, and the western boundary of a strip of unwarranted land settled by said Brown northwardly to the place of beginning." At August sessions, 1837, a part of Tionesta east of the Allegheny river was annexed to Cornplanter, and when President was formed became part of that township.

The officers chosen at the first township election were: James Cary, constable; Henry McCalmont, Andrew Howe, supervisors; Abraham Prather, A. G. Siverly, overseers of the poor; F. G. Crary, Francis McClintock, auditors.

*Early Industries.*—The first mill in Cornplanter township was built by James Ricketts on Cherry run, and though a primitive affair proved a great public convenience, the nearest mill for the settlers hitherto having been that of the Holland Company on Oil creek in Crawford county, with an almost impassable wilderness between. As early as 1810 Gen. Samuel Hays had a mill at the mouth of Cherry run. One of the first sawmills on Oil creek was built by Francis McClintock, at Petroleum Center. The furnace at the site of Oil City was one of the most important in the county. About 1815 Abram C. Prather established a tannery near Plumer, one of the best equipped in the county, and continued the business until some time in the thirties. The location of some vats is still distinguishable. There was a small distillery at Rynd Farm at an early date. As in other parts of the county, there are some ruins, and traces of these little early industries to be seen to-day—that is all. Oil brought better roads and more residents, and the manufacturing, centered at a comparatively few points, became adequate to the increased demands.

*Population.*—In 1850 the township had a population of 693; 1870, 9,863; 1880, 3,238; 1890, 2,457; 1900, 1,200; 1910, 1,415.

*Plumer.*—Henry McCalmont, who built the first house in this town, named the place in honor of Arnold Plumer, Congressman from the district including Venango county in 1837-39 and 1841-43, and one of the most eminent

citizens. The structure mentioned, erected in 1843, was a commodious plank house long conducted as the "Plumer Hotel," used for such purposes until destroyed by fire in the spring of 1889. About the same time Plumer post office was established, succeeding Rynd post office as the mail distributing point for the region along the old Warren road. In recent years the mail has been supplied by rural free delivery service from Rouseville.

The first store was opened in 1851 by Henry and James Sutton, in the second building in the town, which they erected opposite the hotel, Henry McCalmont building the third and occupying it as a residence after he retired from the hotel business. The "Stone House Hotel," a prominent landmark and popular hostelry in its day, was put up by Thomas Turner, who came from New York, for a dwelling, and before the town received the impetus due to the oil excitement there were also a mill and blacksmith shop (the former built in 1856-57 by Washington Campbell) and the residences of John Irwin, Washington Campbell, Mr. Free, Alexander Anderson, T. W. McCalmont, James Barnes, and possibly others. John S., George C. and Abram Prather were proprietors of the store.

By the time oil was discovered in the county Plumer was a village of considerable local importance, and although not near the territory first developed experienced a notable growth incidental thereto, the healthfulness and attractiveness of the location drawing many hither, a number of persons of means perceiving its desirability as a place of residence. Alexander McCalmont sold lots in fee simple, and many substantial buildings were put up, including the "Bay State," "Plumer," "National" and "Spencer" hotels, as well as stores, residences, places of amusement, and other less desirable establishments. It is estimated that the town proper and Humboldt, its suburb, had an aggregate population of eight thousand before the "disintegrating exodus" began. The substantial nature of some local enterprises gave every indication of permanency, notably the Humboldt Oil Works, founded by Ludo-vici & Bruns, two Germans of some means, one or both of whom had some knowledge of chemistry which undoubtedly induced them to engage in refining, an industry then in the experimental stage. Nothing seems to have been spared in the construction and equipment of the plant, the mechanical apparatus having been brought from Eastern manufactures at great expense, and operations begun in an incredibly short period, entirely characteristic,

however, of the speed with which all undertakings in the oil fields were accomplished. The management gave evidence of courage, initiative and good judgment in the early conduct of its affairs, as early as 1862 constructing a pipe line from the Tarr Farm to its works, a departure from the ordinary method of getting oil from the wells to the refineries whose full value was not yet appreciated by the general run of people. A two-inch wrought iron pipe was used, but the success of the experiment demonstrated the feasibility of this means of transportation and to a large extent determined the future of the entire oil industry. The years immediately following were marked by apparent prosperity, and the business, like many others, was merged into a joint-stock company, capitalized at three million dollars, the original projectors retaining a one-third interest. The management, however, passed into the hands of representatives appointed by the Eastern investors, whose lavish expenditures and general improvidence, combined with the circumstance that certain railroad lines constructed to the oil country left the works at a disadvantage, made it necessary eventually to abandon them. Some of the machinery was taken to other points. The large quantities of cut stone, used so liberally in the construction of the building, remained there until 1889, when part of it was removed to Oil City for the foundation walls of the building erected by the National Transit Company.

At one time there were also three other refineries in operation here, the Warren and Osceola, occupying adjoining locations northwest of the "Plumer Hotel" and both of about the same size and large capacity; the third being a smaller plant financed principally by local capital.

Meantime, Plumer had begun to decline in other respects, other cities absorbing the tide of population that was attracted to the oil regions in the latter part of the Civil war period, capital was going elsewhere, and the disadvantages of its distance from the great thoroughfares of travel were making themselves felt. The National Bank which had been established, owned principally by Prather Brothers and Thomas Duncan, was removed to Sharon, Mercer county, in 1868. The more substantial houses were torn down, the materials being taken elsewhere for use, and the town has never since been more than a village, with a hundred to a hundred and fifty inhabitants. It has one store.

The old burial ground at Plumer is the

resting place of a number of local pioneers, including John McCalmont, born in County Armagh, Ireland, Jan. 11, 1750, who died Aug. 3, 1832, in his eighty-third year; William Shaw, who died Nov. 7, 1851, aged sixty-seven years, eleven months, nineteen days; Henry McCalmont, who was born in Mifflin county, March 16, 1776, and died Feb. 5, 1855; Robert McFate, who died July 28, 1829, in the sixtieth-fourth year of his age; Moses Davidson, who died Feb. 4, 1858, in the sixty-fourth year of his age; Walter S. Russell, who died March 31, 1861, aged sixty-nine; Joel Sage, a native of Connecticut, who died Feb. 14, 1861, in his eighty-sixth year; James Cary, who died Nov. 29, 1862, aged sixty-seven years, ten months, twenty-one days; Francis Culbertson, who died Aug. 9, 1853, in the eighty-sixth year of his age; James Ricketts, who died March 6, 1856, aged eighty-nine years, nine months, eighteen days; William McCray, who died June 28, 1861, in his sixty-third year; James B. Skinner, who died Aug. 27, 1860, aged sixty-seven years, eight months, two days.

*Pithole City*, so named for the creek on which it is situated, had its inception with the oil developments begun at this point in the autumn of 1864. The creek is said to have acquired its name from a remarkable chasm on the hill at its mouth, the first recorded mention of which is found in the "Western Pioneer," by Alfred Brunson, an itinerant Methodist preacher. In 1819, while preaching on a circuit that included Dawson's in Allegheny township, he lost his way while journeying from that place to Oil creek (Titusville), and wandering "to the left onto the brow of the hills or little mountains that overlook the Allegheny river, and was in the vicinity of a most singular natural well. This was said to be about six feet open at the top and on the highest ridge, but no bottom had then if ever since been found. A constant current of air came out of it and of such a nature as to putrefy fresh meat in a few minutes. This fact was discovered by a hunter suspending some game in it by a rope while he extended his hunt a short time. The cause of this bad air was not known."

The territory about the headwaters of this creek is fairly good farming country, but no part of its valley is valuable for cultivation, being scarcely tillable for several miles inland. That part of the country between the Warren road and the creek, near their intersection, is typical, yet some of the first settlements in the township were made thereabouts, the Allenders having been already mentioned among the pioneers. Within a few years of their ar-

rival Walter Holmden and his family came, locating on the west bank of the creek, which has a somewhat abrupt slope, with tolerably level surface above. Mr. Holmden, who moved here from Connecticut, was of English origin and a man of fervent piety, having been ordained to the ministry of the Baptist Church. His life here was a continual struggle against the direst poverty, his incessant labors yielding him, beyond the bare necessities of life, only fifty acres of cleared land with small house and barn, though undreamed-of wealth was waiting to be tapped all about him. He died May 15, 1840, and is buried in the old cemetery at Pleasantville. His farm subsequently was leased by the United States Oil Company for a period of twenty years, and purchased in fee simple by Duncan & Prather.

The oil industry about Pithole creek, begun in the fall of 1864, was remarkable from its inception. The Frazier well on the Holmden farm, which began to flow Jan. 7, 1865, at the rate of six hundred and fifty barrels a day, continued flowing until the 10th of the following November. The Twin wells, struck on the 17th and 19th of January, flowed eight hundred barrels a day. No. 77 was brought in by E. Deshler Aug. 1st; the Grant well, No. 19, Aug. 2d, beginning at four hundred and fifty barrels and reaching twelve hundred; No. 37, by Robinson & Co., Aug. 4th; No. 54, by Pool, Perry & Co., Aug. 28th, beginning at eight hundred barrels; No. 47, by the same company, Sept. 15th, four hundred barrels; all these, with others of lesser capacity, being included in the results of six months' operations on the Holmden farm. The daily production on July 24, 1865, amounted to thirty-five hundred barrels, and a hundred wells were in process of drilling.

Though twelve miles from Titusville, four from Plumer, and seven from Shafer Farm, remote from previously developed territory and reached only by rough country roads, Pithole sprang into prominence speedily, attracting hosts of adventurers who dreamed of accumulating fortunes in the oil regions. Duncan & Prather, above mentioned, first entertained the idea of laying out a town, which grew with a rapidity almost unbelievable. Although the United States well had steadily increased its production, there were only two buildings at the town site in the end of May. But the striking of the Grant well in the early part of June started a rush of capital and population to the locality unprecedented in the history of the Pennsylvania oil fields, and each new well increased the excitement. Building

lots were leased by the proprietors of the town at several hundred dollars per year, fifty dollars payable in advance, and the lessees had no difficulty in making transfers of their holdings at advances of hundreds and thousands of dollars. The lot subsequently occupied by the "Danforth House" was leased at \$14,500. It is said that in July, 1865, Duncan & Prather had an estimated income of sixty thousand dollars from the city plat, and the negotiations for the purchase of their entire interests at that time illustrate the great appreciation of local property values. Henry E. Picket, George J. Sherman and Brian Philpot, all of Titusville, in the month mentioned, took an option for the purchase of the Holmden farm for \$1,300,000. the first payment of \$300,000 to be made within thirty days of the date of the contract, July 24th. The daily production on the farm of 200 acres was then nearly four thousand barrels, and extensive drilling operations were going on, the royalty to be one half, while the income on the Pithole town lots equaled a six-per-cent return on an investment of a million. Mr. Sherman went to New York to interest capital there, and planned to dispose of his option for \$1,600,000. A purchasing committee was to visit Pithole to examine the property before the final transfers were made, but the discovery of the Ketchum forgeries on the day set for their departure affected some of the prospective buyers and spoiled the sale. Mr. Sherman telegraphed H. H. Honore, of Chicago, who met him at Titusville several days later with a party of Chicago capitalists. They offered Chicago real estate valued at four hundred thousand dollars instead of the cash payment planned, and Duncan & Prather visited Chicago to investigate the properties involved, which included a block adjoining the "Tremont House" valued at \$175,000. The cash payment was insisted upon and eventually agreed to, Joshua A. Ellis (president of the Second National Bank of Chicago), J. G. LeMoyne, Messrs. Sherman and Honore leaving Chicago with the money early in September, 1865. They divided it among them at Titusville and set out for Pithole City on horseback, offering it at Duncan & Prather's banking office late in the afternoon of the day upon which the option expired. It was refused on the ground that the contract was binding only until sunset of that day, and the legal complications which ensued were in litigation several years, the matter being carried to the United States court.

To quote Dr. S. J. M. Eaton: "The value of oil lands was reckoned by millions; small interests in single wells brought hundreds of thou-

sands of dollars. New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and numberless other lesser centers measured purses in the insane strife for territory. Money circulated like waste paper and for weeks the scene recalled the wildest fictions of the South Sea bubble or Law's Mississippi scheme. \* \* \* The close of the war had left the country flooded with an inflated currency, besides throwing many thousands of energetic men upon their own resources and hundreds of these flocked to the latest Eldorado, which presented manifold inducements alike to the venturesome spirit, the active speculator, the unscrupulous stock jobber, the needy laborer, the reckless adventurer, and the dishonest trickster."

The growth of Pithole City was phenomenally rapid. Stores and hotels matured in a day. Some enterprising individual hauled a wagonload of groceries from Titusville, a counter was made of boards nailed to convenient trees, and it is said that a single day's transactions brought a profit of seven hundred dollars. The first hotel was only a rough frame building, but meal tickets sold easily for a dollar, though there was apparently no limit to the number sold and the supply of provisions on hand was insufficient. Windows as well as doorways were used to enter the dining room, and only the fortunate were comfortably seated at table. One of the early numbers of the *Daily Record*, for September, 1865, contains the advertisements of a number of hotels, the "United States," "Buckley House," "Sherman House," "Tremont," "Northeast," "St. James," "American," "Eckert," "Seneca," "Lincoln," "Pomeroy" and others, and indicates the lack of adequate accommodations in this comment: "A rapid influx of strangers crowded at nightfall every tenement; beds, sofas, and even chairs were luxuries for the few; the many were obliged to seek the shaving pile or haycock and sometimes even content themselves with the most susceptible side of a pine board. These days have passed away. It is quite a month since most if not all could provide themselves with the luxury of a bed. It is true that Jew and Gentile were and in many cases still are mingled promiscuously in 'field-beds' made up in rows along the floors of attic rooms and upper chambers. It is still true that most of the hotel tables are so crowded that it is a privilege to get comfortable seats at the first table."

The *Record* also has an interesting editorial paragraph on the historic mud which prevailed: "Pithole still has its evils, and among these are the changing weather of our mountain climate and the mud—not ordinary mud which consol-

itates into hard clay during a few hours sunshine, but mud—thick, consistent, deep and widespread; mud which flies easy and sticks hard; a cold, clammy mixture which adheres to everything it touches with the tenacity of mortar; slippery as hypocritical smoothness itself, it lubricates the clay beneath and lays pitfalls at every step, and woe betide the unwary pedestrian who falls in its midst."

The newspaper just quoted, the *Daily Record*, was the pioneer successful daily of Venango county, and its first issue appeared on Monday, Sept. 25, 1865, a five-column quarto for which subscribers paid thirty cents a week. The publishers were Morton, Spare & Company, the editor Lee M. Morton. The town also had two banking houses, those of Prather, Wadsworth & Company and H. R. Kemp. The post office was opened July 27, 1865, with S. S. Hill as postmaster, and it is said that the first mail dispatched contained a thousand letters, the fourth more than four thousand; when the place was at the height of its prosperity the office ranked third in the State in volume of business. The waterworks were designed in September, 1865, and constructed at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars.

On Nov. 30, 1865, Pithole City was incorporated as a borough, the following officers being chosen at the first election, held Dec. 11th: Alexander J. Keenan, burgess; Leonard H. Church, Lee M. Morton, J. T. Chalfant, F. P. Confer and D. Gardner, council. In view of conditions, it may be easily understood that there was great need for municipal organization, but it is only fair to those who administered public affairs to state that the town, with all its heterogeneous and inharmonious elements, was comparatively free from the numerous acts of violence which usually occur in such a community.

The earliest improvement in general traveling facilities to and from the town was the construction of plank roads to Titusville and Miller Farm in the summer of 1865. Except for the pipe line to the Humboldt works above noted, until the autumn of that year all shipments of oil were made by wagon to Titusville or Miller Farm for railroad transshipment, or to the mouth of the creek for transportation by boat. Then a pipe line was constructed to Miller Farm by Mr. Van Syckle of Titusville and another to Oleopolis by T. C. Bates. The Pennsylvania Tubing & Transportation Company was organized in the summer of 1865 by Rochester, N. Y., men, among whom were Col. James Brackett and N. T. Hilton. This company constructed a six-inch line, six miles

long, from Pithole to Oleopolis, a shipping point by rail and river, nine miles above Oil City. At this point the company had storage tanks and a refinery, the Solar Oil Works, with 171 barrels daily capacity. This company made its first delivery of oil through the line Dec. 12, 1865. In the following May Messrs. Brackett, Hilton and others bought in all the stock of the Pennsylvania Tubing & Transportation Company and organized the Rochester & Oleopolis Oil Company, of which N. T. Hilton was treasurer and general manager. Two years later the supply of oil was too large to handle by boat and rail from Oleopolis, so the R. & O. Oil Company built a two-inch line to Oil City. This company built other lines as well, to various fields throughout the county.

On Feb. 7, 1866, the Oil City & Pithole railroad was opened as far as the Sumner & Pratt purchase, and at the same time grading was in progress through the Holmden farm to the Satterlee well on the Morey farm. The first through train from Pithole City to Oil City over this road was run Friday, March 10, 1866, and the Reno, Oil Creek & Pithole railroad was constructed within a mile of the city in the spring of the following year.

Though a fire department was organized at the "Scott House" Sept. 20, 1865, it does not seem to have been very effective, for in the course of its brief existence Pithole City was visited by a number of destructive fires. On Feb. 8, 1866, the "Tremont House" was destroyed with adjoining property, the loss being estimated at \$16,500. A fire in the suburb of Balltown on the 17th of the same month did twenty thousand dollars' worth of damage. On May 1, 1866, twenty-one buildings burned represented a loss of thirty thousand dollars. Another fire in Balltown, on the 24th of that month, destroyed twenty-eight buildings valued at twenty-five thousand dollars. Sixteen buildings on First and Second streets were burned June 13th; well No. 43, of the United States Petroleum Company, took fire Aug. 2d, and the flames spread so rapidly that before they could be checked twenty-seven wells and rigs and thirteen thousand barrels of oil, worth \$135,000, had been consumed.

In spite of the lack of transportation facilities and other disadvantages, as well as frequent fires, Pithole City increased rapidly. Its greatest population is not exactly known, the number of inhabitants at the height of its importance, including the suburbs of Balltown, Prather City and Babylon, having been variously estimated at from thirteen to sixteen thousand. With the decline of the influences

that had called it into existence the place went down with as marvelous rapidity as it had sprung up. Wells did not always continue to produce at the rate at which they began. Many were disappointments as to output. New centers which promised the quick returns for which adventure was seeking drew by their apparently superior attractions. In 1868 the newspaper was removed to Petroleum Center. The railroad was abandoned. The more costly buildings were rebuilt at other points. The first notable exodus left a good-sized village, made up of operatives at the wells and others, but as the production decreased steadily they too moved elsewhere, and in November, 1876, but six votes were polled in the borough, and the charter was annulled upon petition to the court of Quarter Sessions in August of the following year. The handful of residents at this point now receive their mail by rural delivery from Pleasantville.

During the year 1866 two churches were dedicated at Pithole, the Catholic Church on Jan. 21st by Bishop Young, the Methodist Episcopal Church on May 27th, by Bishop Simpson. The first church bell heard in the town was rung in the belfry of the M. E. Church on March 24th. This building, erected mainly through the efforts of Rev. D. S. Steadman, is now the only church structure remaining. There was also a Presbyterian Church, of which no history is available, and possibly others. A delightful drive from Oil City at any time of the year is that which has for its objective the old church at Pithole. In autumn, the exhilarating air, the sweet smell of woods things; the bright red and brown of the oaks, the yellow-leaved beeches and flaming bushes at the roadside, are enjoyed. Great cushions of moss spread themselves out as a border and are decorated in fanciful forms by the fresh and beautiful ground pine which weaves itself in and out among them. In the springtime, little wild flowers of blue are seen in patches, and fragrant arbutus, flower loved by poets and children—which really includes us all—invites the swiftest car to go slowly. Sounds are heard by the listening ear, from the deep woods. They notify the world that the gay towhee is looking about. The thrilling organ tones of the veery float out. While from the hills opposite come the voice of the meadow lark and the fine song of the field sparrow, beginning always with a bar in a minor key like one of Beethoven's sonatas—these speak to the senses of all that music suggests and never quite reveals. Up hill and down the road goes, suddenly curving round at the foot of the hill.

The church upon the crest stands out and makes its appeal. York Minster can do no more. If you leave the car and sit for a while on the broad step of the church, the solitude and stillness invite to reminiscence. Here once was a city with thousands of inhabitants. Here once were thousands of battling, scheming men, dreamers all, and many of them becoming exceedingly wide-awake afterward. Inevitably one is touched by the current of life which surged up and pushed this church to the pinnacle, and has receded and left it alone.

*Petroleum Center* still boasts one substantial brick store and a post office, but its population and present appearance little indicate its one-time size and importance. It is estimated that it had above fifteen thousand inhabitants in 1869. The town was formally laid out early in the spring of 1864, a few months after oil operations in the vicinity promised to be of some magnitude. The first successful discovery of any importance in the immediate locality was the Hollister well on the Hyde and Egbert farm, a triangular tract at the foot of the McCray hill, which began to yield in the spring of 1861, flowing in considerable volume. The lessees were under contract to deliver the oil to the land owners in barrels, but as barrels at the time cost ten times as much as the oil they would hold the lease had to be abandoned and the oil was allowed to flow into the creek. The first big production was obtained in 1863, when a well drilled by a New Jersey company flowed three hundred and fifty barrels daily with little variation over a period of nine months. The Maple Shade well, struck Aug. 5, 1863, flowed eight hundred barrels a day for ten months, and the Coquette, on the same farm, began at twelve hundred barrels and yielded eight hundred for a considerable time.

In November, 1863, George H. Bissell & Company leased the McClintock farm, a tract of 207 acres, which included the site of *Petroleum Center* and a semi-circular ravine known as Wild Cat hollow. The February following the property was transferred to the Central Petroleum Company of New York, a merely nominal change, as Mr. Bissell was the originator of that company and largely interested in its capitalization. From this time active development work was entered upon and systematically prosecuted. Leases at a uniform royalty of one half the oil were given, to actual operators only, and the remarkable production is attributed as much to the judicious management as to the excellence of the territory, for though it was literally perforated with wells the percentage of successful ven-

tures was probably larger than at any other locality in this region.

Here the valley of the creek is comparatively narrow, bounded on either side by wooded hills of majestic height and steep slope. The level ground west of the creek was chosen for the location of the town, which grew with unprecedented rapidity and disappeared almost completely within the space of a few years. "The site was well chosen. Within a few miles in any direction enormous wealth seemed to have rewarded every adventurer. There was a rush of population and capital to the Pennsylvania oil field such as had never before been attracted to a territory of equal size in the State. It was the work of far-seeing sagacity to plan a town of such size as *Petroleum Center* became and make the project a brilliant financial success. In this instance it was largely the accomplishment of one man—George H. Bissell." Mr. Bissell had organized the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company, the first petroleum company in the country, formed in 1854 under the laws of New York State, and was mainly instrumental in its reorganization in 1855, and also in sending Drake to Titusville in 1859. When his mission resulted so favorably Mr. Bissell decided to locate in the oil regions, living at Franklin from 1859 to 1863. He was one of the first who had vision enough to realize the possibilities of the oil industry, in which he invested largely, and his operations were unusually successful. He was also prominently and honorably identified with many other enterprises, and had the confidence of the public to an exceptional degree. Being so well and favorably known, his influence in the growth of the new town was most beneficial. With a location central to the territory then most largely and successfully operated, its growth was highly typical of the development of oil country towns in those days. There were adventurers and substantial investors, operators, tradesmen and laborers in search of remunerative employment, merchants to keep them supplied with the necessities of life, and in addition the miscellaneous throng always found in communities of such origin, men belonging to no particular line of business, some of questionable appearance and origin, and all the other undesirable elements of the parasitic crew invariably found in the wake of those who seek sudden riches.

As the company leased lots for building purposes, many of the first structures erected were mere sheds, only a few of large size and costly construction being put up. The only brick block ever built was that formerly used as a bank, which passed into the possession of

the late Henry Wilbert, who acquired large interests in the town, and whose estate still has valuable holdings there, continuing the large business which he founded. On the opposite side of the street stood the local office of the Central Petroleum Company, a large frame building of pretentious appearance; there were several large and commodious hotels, and though the mercantile enterprises were not housed in expensive or finely appointed quarters they carried large stocks of goods which indicated the thriving business done.

In 1866 and 1867 there were several destructive fires in the town as well as at the wells. One of the worst recorded occurred March 31, 1866, when the machinery and appliances at the Coquette and Jersey wells and twenty-five thousand barrels of oil, besides many dwellings and business houses, were completely wiped out. The loss was \$150,000. On April 23 and June 2, 1867, other blazes broke out, the latter destroying thirty-five buildings, and scarcely a month passed without a casualty of this kind. In July, 1878, years after the town passed the zenith of its history, there was another important fire, which destroyed much valuable property, including the large building of the Central Petroleum Company; and the last one of any note occurred in 1880, doing less damage—probably because the building area had been considerably reduced.

It is rather remarkable that no local government was ever organized at Petroleum Center, which no doubt accounts for the fact that vice in every form flourished and acts of violence were of frequent occurrence. Saloons, gambling dens and other questionable resorts "seemed engaged in amicable rivalry to determine which should excel in numbers, luxurious appointments and glaring display. A single term of the court of Quarter Sessions at Franklin furnished minutes sufficient to fill a large volume, the cases being principally from this town. There was one murder trial from the place, but as the deed was committed in a state of intoxication and with no evidence of premeditated malice the perpetrator escaped the gallows and was sentenced to a long imprisonment. . . . It would be an utterly indefensible misapplication of terms to call Petroleum Center a moral town at any time during the period of its prosperity." Yet it would be unfair to leave the impression that the community was without moral balance. Its substantial citizens were completely absorbed in their business concerns. When the objectionable elements went too far they were promptly attended to, by "mob law." It was

such an outbreak of public opinion that caused the raiding of several questionable resorts on July 30, 1866, the occupants being compelled to leave the town in peril of their lives. The reform was salutary only temporarily.

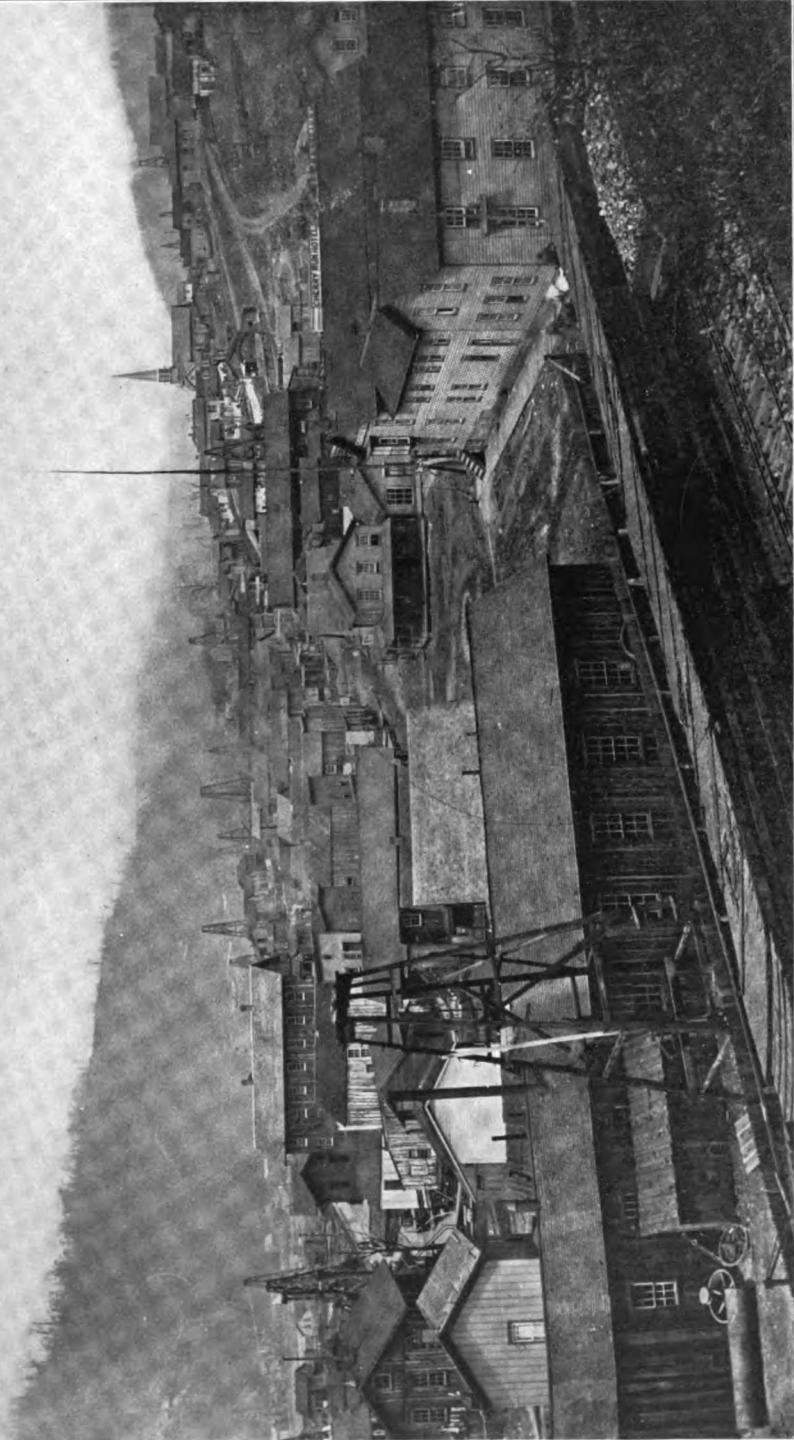
There was a large respectable element who supported several churches. The Methodist congregation, organized in 1863, erected a building in 1865-66. A Presbyterian Church was organized in September, 1865. The Roman Catholics also built a church edifice. Two of the churches remain, the Catholic and the United Brethren. The United Presbyterians hold services once in two weeks, alternating with Plumer on Sunday afternoons.

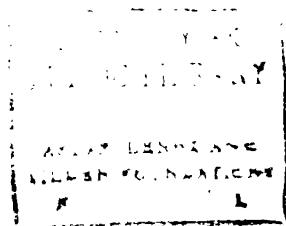
During 1865 and 1866 the town felt the results of the activities at Pithole City, but when that place collapsed some of its largest buildings were rebuilt at Petroleum Center, and the latter had a new impetus. The *Record* was transferred to this point and published here for several years. In 1869 several lines of railway were opened to Oil City, reducing the importance of Petroleum Center as a shipping point. In 1873 the production of oil diminished rapidly, the population had dwindled to 1,500, and in 1880 it was only about three hundred. The machine shop of W. L. Betts, established in 1865, for the manufacture and repair of oil well supplies, and the hardware establishment conducted by the Henry Wilbert estate, complete the roster of the present business houses. Petroleum Center is a station on the Pennsylvania railroad. It is smaller and not so noisy as formerly, but self-reliant and prosperous. Several thousand barrels of Pennsylvania oil, the best in the world, worth four dollars a barrel at the wells, are produced monthly in the vicinity.

Rouseville, situated at the mouth of Cherry run, four miles up Oil creek from Oil City, with which it is connected by street cars running every half hour, is on the tract of land originally seated by Francis Culbertson. Except for the Hays saw and grist mill, built there at an early day, the locality was a quiet farming section until awakened by the discovery of oil. At that time the farms embracing its site were owned by Archibald Buchanan, John McClintock and John Buchanan, the Buchanan farms being leased for ninety-nine years by H. R. Rouse, Samuel Q. Brown and John L. Mitchell at a royalty of one fourth of the production. Mr. Rouse drilled the first well. The village which sprang quickly into existence was originally known as Buchanan Farm, but in February, 1861, Allen Wright, president of a local oil company, substituted Rouseville in

## Rouseville—About 1874

The large frame building on the right was the old "Cherry Run Hotel," no longer standing. The long frame building on the left was the machine shop of Thomas Smith. The small frame building back of the Smith shop was the F. W. Mitchell Bank.





having his letterheads printed, and the name has remained to perpetuate the memory of this gifted man, who met his tragic death a few weeks later. Mr. Rouse was born at Westfield, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Aug. 30, 1837, completed the public school course and studied law, gaining admission to the bar. Later he taught school in Warren county, Pa., and acquired a strong personal attachment for that region. At the beginning of the oil excitement he was among the first to grasp the possibilities which it held for this section, and showed his faith by joining others in making extensive leases of what afterward proved to be as productive as any other territory on Oil creek. He had barely entered upon his career as an oil operator when fatally injured in an explosion at the Merrick well on the evening of the day it was struck, April 17, 1861. The unusual quantity of oil attracted a large crowd of sightseers, Mr. Rouse among them. The explosion ignited the stream of oil issuing from the well, and everything combustible within a radius of several hundred feet. Mr. Rouse was found about twenty rods from the well, sightless, his garments burning. Strong soul! He held off death and calmly dictated his will, leaving bequests to friends and the bulk of his property to Warren county, where he had taught school, one half for public highways and the other for an institution to help the poor of that county. He asked that his remains be taken to his old home and buried beside his mother. Then his voice ceased.

As Mr. Rouse had inserted a provision in his sub-leases stipulating that the sale of intoxicating liquors should work immediate forfeiture, the town had the benefits of temperance for a time. It experienced several years of substantial prosperity. The Reno, Oil Creek & Pithole railroad was completed to the town Jan. 31, 1866, and opened to travel on the 5th of March, running only a few trains, however, as the road was abandoned before reaching Pithole.

Later the Western New York & Pennsylvania, now the Pennsylvania, began passenger traffic, Aug. 27th of the same year. Smith & Walker established a large machine shop in 1865, owned successively by Thomas Smith and Smith & Enos, which was an industrial feature of the town. Its declining business ceased before 1880. Forster W. Mitchell established a bank there in December, 1869, in which year the post office receipts were twenty-five thousand dollars. Two newspapers were published, the *Evening Bulletin*, started in 1871, and the *Pennsylvanian*, in 1872. The

Methodist Church, erected in 1865, was enlarged in 1869 and is still used. Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches were erected in 1870, a Baptist Church in 1871, and a Catholic Church in 1872-73, which with the M. E. Church is still active. But when oil production in the vicinity declined business activities suffered as usual, though there are a couple of large refineries still operated at this location, together with many other prosperous business establishments. The main street is now being paved with brick to connect with the Oil City pavement.

According to the census of 1880, there were 688 inhabitants; no figures are given for 1890; in 1900 there were 516; 1910, 648. With its substantial homes, two churches, fine school building, and excellent railroad and mail service, Rouseville is a desirable place of residence.

The borough officials since 1900 have been elected as follows (no elections in 1912, 1914 and 1916, owing to legislative changes, officials holding over during those years):

1900-01-02—Burgess, William Orr; Councilmen, 1900—W. S. Welker, D. J. Cavanaugh, C. E. Clark, W. C. Tyler, P. M. Nelson; 1901—W. A. McCray, C. H. Brown, F. L. Fry; 1902—G. H. Reed, A. B. Stout, Grant Fish.

1903-04-05—Burgess, W. C. Tyler; Councilmen, 1903—William Orr, W. R. Daugherty, Grant Fish; 1904—W. W. Bowser, C. J. Lowen, W. J. Tamahill; 1905—C. H. Brown, William Cromack, Charles Clark.

1906-07-08—Burgess, C. E. Clark; Councilmen, 1906—L. M. Manion, H. G. McCombs, H. H. McBrier; 1907—W. E. McDill, A. T. Straub, Harry Peterson; 1908—William C. Tyler, W. A. McCray.

1909-10-11—Burgess, Jesse Fry; Councilmen, 1909—H. H. McBrier, H. J. Borland, C. H. Drein; 1910—B. E. Bowers, R. H. Watson; 1911—G. E. Nelson, H. G. McCombs, J. H. Arthurs.

1913-15—Burgess, W. S. Welker (four years); Councilmen, 1913—A. L. Hartman (four years), W. E. Hartman (four years), H. C. Lamb (four years), George H. Brush (two years), B. E. Powers (two years); 1915—B. E. Powers (four years), D. J. Cavanaugh (two years).

1917—Burgess, W. M. Cromack; Councilmen, W. M. E. Arthurs (four years), G. E. Nelson (four years), B. A. Myers (four years).

Siverly borough, now incorporated in Oil City, began its municipal existence in 1862, when Philip H. and Walter Siverly laid out a village, the former having bought the farm

## VENANGO COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

upon which it is situated in 1848, and sold a half interest to the latter in 1857. This site was surveyed in 1802 by Samuel Dale, for Noah and Jesse Sage, upon improvement warrants, each making a settlement and planting an orchard, one below Siverly run and the other above it. They were the oldest orchards in this part of Venango county, and bore fruit as late as 1875. In 1820 the lower improvement, which had been abandoned for some time, was settled by Abram George Siverly, who was born in New York City July 26, 1769, and died in Iowa, whither he removed in the year 1839. He began to read medicine at an early age, but when his preceptor died gave up the study and went to sea, following the water seven years. He then located at New Fane, Vt., where he learned the trade of cabinetmaker and married, later living in Delaware county and Olean, N. Y., before he settled in Pinegrove township, Venango Co., Pa., in 1819. The next year he moved to the lower Sage improvement, remaining there until 1825, when, the validity of his title having been successfully contested, he crossed the small stream that formerly marked the eastern boundary of Oil City and settled at the site of Siverly, where a survey was made in the name of his sons Philip H. and Milton T. Siverly, who built a log house for him on the bank of the river, on ground later acquired by the Imperial Refining Company. He was a prominent resident of the locality, serving as justice of the peace and as postmaster at Cornplanter, the first office in the vicinity of the mouth of Oil Creek. By his marriage to Susanna Thayer, Oct. 7, 1793, there were fourteen children, eight of whom grew to maturity. The family is still well represented here.

William Alcorn, a connection of the large Alcorn family of Cherry Tree, settled at the upper end of the borough in 1824 and served one term as justice of the peace here.

A number of subdivisions were laid out after the original village was platted, the place continued to grow steadily, and on Aug. 27, 1874, the borough was incorporated, the officials elected that year being as follows: Walter Siverly, burgess; J. H. Alexander, William Jones, J. W. Gardiner, John Mohnkern, Alvin Was-  
son, John Farren, council. After a year as burgess Mr. Siverly became a member of the council, in which he served continuously from 1875 to 1886, with the exception of the year 1882, being again elected in 1889. The following were elected from 1900:

1900-01-02—Burgess, V. E. Reynolds; Councilmen, 1900—William Esenwein, John

Freeman, J. N. Martin, C. S. Allison, James Hanna, John Borland; 1901—John Lazier, J. M. Monkern; 1902—George Poulson, R. A. Sneitzer, J. A. Wilkins.

1903-04-05—Burgess, William Guisewite; Councilmen, 1903—C. Lundberg, James Hanna, George Shingledecker; 1904—W. D. Allen, John Wilson, W. W. Dimond; 1905—Jacob Mohnkern; W. W. Dimond, George Poulson.

1906-07-08—Burgess, Frank Poulson; Councilmen, 1906—Fred Krug, George Shingledecker, Ruel Mohnkern; 1907—William Guisewite, Michael Gormley; 1908—F. V. Trax, Daniel Kerr, E. Quinn.

1909-10—Burgess, W. H. Guisewite; Councilmen, 1909—R. E. Mohnkern, D. McIntyre; 1910—Ed. Quinn, Lawrence Ervine, R. E. Mohnkern.

In the spring of 1910 Siverly became a part of Oil City, forming the Tenth ward.

The post office at this point was called Archie for a time, and T. N. Rogers served as postmaster. D. T. Borland and H. H. Gardiner subsequently filled the position, and it was during the latter's administration that the name was changed to Siverly, which was retained until it became a part of Oil City.

Practical prohibition of the liquor traffic was a feature of Siverly from the beginning. One school of eight rooms, now a part of the Oil City system, is located here, and two churches, a Methodist and a Catholic, are flourishing and growing rapidly. The town had a healthy growth. Its population in 1880 was 667; 1890, 883; 1900, 783; 1910, 1,616.

The Oil Well Supply Company has its principal shops here, now employing nine hundred and seventy-five workmen, many of whom live near the works. Prior to the "Supply" shops, there was a large refinery, the Imperial, now a part of the Eclipse. These will be further considered under Franklin and Oil City manufacturers.

*Oleopolis*, now a little station on the Pennsylvania railroad which receives its mail from Eaglerock, was once a town of a thousand inhabitants. The construction of a railroad up the valley of Pithole creek naturally resulted in the establishment of a shipping point at its river terminus, below the mouth of that stream, and even when the opening of a railroad in the river valley deflected this business to other points the town continued to flourish until the exhaustion of the Pithole district. In 1865 a refinery was built there, with a weekly capacity of one thousand barrels, using the double still invented by Adolph Millochan. In com-

mon with other towns in the oil regions, it suffered by a number of destructive fires, the one on June 20, 1866, being especially notable, when barges, tanks and other property, to the value of thirty thousand dollars, were lost.

*Kane City*, situated on Cherry Tree run, several miles west of Oil creek, in the northwestern part of Cornplanter township, also reached the dignity of a population of one thousand in its busiest days. There are one store and two dwellings in the town at present, with separated farmhouses, and some valuable business interests, principally in the line of oil production. The mail service is by rural free delivery from Oil City.

*McClintockville*, which perpetuates the name of a prominent pioneer family, lies two and a half miles north of Oil City on the land settled by Hamilton McClintock, along the line of the Pennsylvania railroad. It has a small population, and is on the mail route from Oil City.

*Columbia Farm*, still in existence as the station of Columbia on the Pennsylvania railroad, was another settlement which grew up incidental with local oil activities, at one time having several hundred inhabitants, principally employes of the Columbia Oil Company. Its few residents receive their mail from Petroleum Center.

*Rynd Farm*, midway between Columbia and Rouseville on the Pennsylvania road, where the Warren road crosses Oil creek, was a town of considerable importance during early oil operations along the creek. There was a post office named Rynd at this point for some years, but the mail is now brought in over the rural route from Rouseville.

*Shaw Farm*, once an "oil town" of several hundred inhabitants, on the road from Oil City to Plumer, is now one farm still known by that name, a point on the road; other farms lie at intervals along the road, well tilled, and most of them with oil production.

*Walnut Bend*, a little town on the north bank of the Allegheny river in the southeastern corner of the township, but a short distance from Oleopolis, has a post office, one store and twenty-five inhabitants. The post office serves a number of farmers and oil producers who live back from the river. There is also a colony of summer residents.

*Rock-wood, or Rock-mere*, is a railroad station about four miles above Oil City. It is the home of the Oil City Boat Club, which built a boathouse there more than thirty-five years ago. The Club has improved its boathouse, which is now a floating house adapted to all stages of the river, and permitting the

easy launching and storing of a large number of boats. The boat clubhouse is back of this and is a commodious building, supplied with spring water, cold and hot, and with fuel gas. It contains a large dining room, a complete kitchen and a number of bath rooms. A smaller clubhouse, near by, is known as the Rockwood Club House, and belongs to the younger people of the club, who come earlier and later in the season, and thus avoid opening the large house. This house is also complete in the details of its furnishings.

A number of "cottages" have been erected at this place, costing to build from five hundred dollars to fourteen thousand dollars. There are fifteen of them, all complete summer homes. The attendance at this point averages probably sixty a day, coming by train or by automobile, from early spring till the end of the season. The club has a private drive from Sage run to the point. It owns half a mile along the river bank, extending back from the river, the same distance.

#### SANDY CREEK TOWNSHIP

*Erection.*—The township named Sandy Creek was provided for in the report of the commission appointed at March sessions, 1806. The stream of that name was designated as its northern boundary and the line of Irwin (now Irwin and Clinton) township as the southern limit of its territory. It was provisionally attached to French Creek for administrative purposes. What is now known as Sandy Creek township was named in 1834. It comprises the land lying south of Franklin, and extending eastward from the boundary of French Creek township and the Big Sandy creek to the Allegheny river. At April sessions, 1834, Alexander McCalmont, John W. Howe and Andrew Bowman were appointed by the court to consider the advisability of dividing French Creek township, as petitioned for by a number of its inhabitants, and the following August they reported favorably to division by a line "Beginning at the line of the borough of Franklin where the State road from Franklin to Mercer intersects the same, thence by said State road to the south end of the bridge over Big Sandy creek, thence by the south bank of Big Sandy creek to the line dividing the counties of Mercer and Venango," which received final confirmation by the court Nov. 29, 1834. The eastern line of this territory was revised in 1856, and the formation of Mineral township, Oct. 24, 1870, and of Victory township, Sept. 6, 1876, cut off all that portion to the

south of the Big Sandy and reduced the township to its present area.

The only stream of any importance within the limits of the township is Morrison's run, a tributary of Big Sandy creek. A bend in the Allegheny river partly incloses the region known as Bully Hill, an agricultural district of considerable fertility, drained by Siefer's and Brown's runs and smaller streams.

*Pioneers.*—The first settlement in the township was made along the Pittsburgh road, which was the narrow trail cut through the wilderness in 1787 by Capt. Jonathan Hart, when he was sent to build Fort Franklin. It was not much improved in 1796; but it was then the only public highway from the south. It is said that a man named Ramsey was the first settler, but this is not certain. James Martin, a native of Maryland, made the first improvements on what later became the Kephart farm as early as 1796, planting one of the first orchards in the county, with trees which he is said to have carried on his back from Pittsburgh. He seems to have possessed more than the ordinary intelligence and influence. He was the first clerk of the board of county commissioners upon its organization. Late in life he removed to the State of Indiana, where he died. One of his sons, Prof. Artemus Martin, of Erie, was a mathematician of more than local reputation.

Thomas Brandon, who came from Big Spring, Cumberland Co., Pa., made an improvement along the Pittsburgh road in 1796, and afterward removed to Cranberry township.

The same year witnessed the arrival of the Dewoody family, four brothers, William, John, Andrew and George, natives of Ireland, William acquiring a tract of land extending from the Pittsburgh road beyond the "twin churches" and including what is now half a dozen farms. It was surveyed Dec. 15, 1799. His house was located at a spring on the farm which later passed to the heirs of William E. Smith. William Dewoody married Mary Lyon, of Victory township, and they had five sons and five daughters: George, William, Thomas, Andrew, John, Jane (Mrs. William Hill), Margaret (Mrs. James Griffin), Martha (Mrs. John Black), Nancy (Mrs. David Kinnear) and Eliza (Mrs. Alexander McGarvey). Only two of this large family, George and William, remained in Venango county all their lives, the former dying in Franklin, the latter in Sandy Creek township.

Patrick Manson, also a native of Ireland, came to Venango county in 1797 and settled

in what is now Sandy Creek township. On their way to the new home the family stopped overnight at the home of John Dewoody in Victory township, where Mrs. Manson gave birth to a child, the first white child born in that township and at least one of the first white children born in the county. As early as 1812 Manson was living on the banks of the Allegheny three miles below Franklin, on what was afterward the Hoover farm. He was a man of robust constitution and attained a ripe old age, and having been a veteran of the Revolution was laid to rest with military honors, in the old Franklin cemetery.

In about 1798 John Stevens settled on Big Sandy, at the point where it is crossed by the Pittsburgh and Franklin road, and erected the first gristmill in the vicinity, operating it until his death, which occurred several years later, caused by smallpox. He had married Elizabeth Lowrie, daughter of John Lowrie, and they had two children, Nancy (wife of John L. Porter, of Richland township) and John L. (who died unmarried). The widow remarried, becoming the wife of Robert S. Whann, a pioneer of Mineral township, and they reared six children.

Robert Graham located at the mouth of Sandy creek in the year 1802, making the journey from his old home in Center county with all his household goods on a single sled. It was his son Robert, who was born in Center county Dec. 25, 1797, that first improved the farm upon which the Graham graveyard is located, making his home there until his death. He had a large family.

There were only a few families in the township in 1812, at which time James Cannon lived in the valley of Sandy creek one mile from Waterloo (Polk), on a farm which included the old graveyard of that vicinity. He was an Irishman "of blunt manners but a good Methodist," and reared a family of six daughters, two of whom married Alfred and Isaac Bunnell, respectively. That year John Foster removed into this township from Sugar Creek, locating on a tract of uncleared land nearly opposite the mouth of East Sandy creek; he became one of the useful citizens of the community, actively identified with its religious and educational enterprises. Samuel Hays, of Franklin, owned several farms in the township at this period, one of which, on the Pittsburgh road, was partly cleared by John Gurney. He was to receive half of it, 200 acres, for putting thirty acres of the other half under cultivation and building a house there, but did not carry out his contract, removing

to Franklin, where he built "Gurney's row," a succession of irregular buildings on Thirteenth and Buffalo streets.

Alexander McElhaney was another resident of the locality at this period. He had settled originally at Pithole in 1796, but as Indian troubles seemed probable returned to Center county after a stay of several months and did not come back to this county for several years. Within a short time after his return he located in the neighborhood of Waterloo (Polk), and in 1819 purchased 400 acres of land from Jonathan Pratt, part of which was subsequently held by his son, James McElhaney. He married Mary Ann Dawson, a member of one of the oldest families of Allegheny township. They had a large family.

Samuel Bunnell moved to Venango county from Crawford county, Pa., and first lived in Sugar Creek township, changing his location to this township later.

Samuel Gordon, a settler from Center county, after living for a time in Rockland township, moved into Sandy Creek in 1826. The same year Robert Stephenson settled on a farm near East Grove Church, which he improved; he came from Pittsburgh. Essington Kephart arrived in 1827.

Aaron McKissick, a well known resident of the township, built a hotel on the Pittsburgh road early in the twenties and operated it for nearly twenty years, afterward removing to Waterloo, of which place he was the founder. He came here from Maine, where he had been engaged as a ship carpenter. It was he who gave the name of Bully Hill to his part of the township, though later the name was applied to the section opposite the mouth of East Sandy, during the first oil excitement in that neighborhood.

At the triennial assessment of 1836, the first made after the separate organization of Sandy Creek township (which then included Victory township and a large part of Mineral township), its taxable inhabitants were listed as follows: John Adams, James Adams, Francis Alexander, William Adams, Alfred Bunnell, Isaac Bunnell, William Bennett, Robert Brandon, Charles Bailey, James Cannon, William Cross, John Cather, L. F. Boals, Robert Brady, William Dewoody, George Dewoody, Andrew Dewoody, John Dewoody, Robert Dewoody, Benjamin Dewoody, Hugh Durning, Harriet Elliott, John Elder, John Foster, James Foster, Aquila Grace, Samuel Graham, Robert Graham, Samuel Gordon, John Gordon, William Gordon, Isaac Griffin, Edward Gardner, Samuel Gildersleeve, William Hill, Samuel Hall,

Charles Henderson, Archibald Henderson, Andrew Irwin, Samuel Irwin, Eliakim Jewel, Essington Kephart, Hiram Kimble, John Carmichael, Samuel Lindsay, Jacob Lyon, Matthew Lowrie, Elijah Morrison, Patrick Manson, James Major, Alexander McChimy, William McClaran, Aaron McKissick, John Morrison, Daniel McMillin, John and James McElphatrick, Hugh Marshall, John Mullhall, John McClelland, Robert Martin, Mary Pratt, John Perry, Samuel Ridgway, Henry Strickler, Andrew Shiner, William Shorts, Robert Stephenson, Shadrach Simcox, John Stewart, Stephen Sutton, David Smith, Howell Thomas, Abel Thompson, Robert Temple, Warner Taylor, John Vincent, John Walker, Robert Witherup, Daniel Williams, Samuel Young.

*Population.*—In 1850 the township had a population of 957; 1870, 1,391; 1880, 804; 1890, 779; 1900, 847; 1910, 1,097.

*Mays Mills.*—The earliest gristmill in the township was erected by John Stevenson on Big Sandy creek, near the Pittsburgh road, where "Mays Mills" or "Corners" are now. This mill was a convenience for the people during a number of years.

Somewhat later another mill was built farther up the stream by a man named Templeton. Owing to the proximity of Franklin these mills did not attain much prominence except in the early days.

*Other Industries.*—Iron furnaces were built on Big Sandy, one in 1830 by George McClelland, Franklin Furnace, which was operated for a few years. In 1836 Sandy Furnace was erected by William Cross and Thomas Heyl. These furnace blasts went with the general exodus of such activities in the county.

The surface of Sandy Creek township is greatly diversified. These are rugged hills and pleasant valleys, tablelands and rolling territory. The soil is productive, well watered with good springs and pleasing brooks. The inhabitants are prosperous and ought to be happy, having the advantages of all outdoor life and the promptings toward culture aroused by ready access to one of the most intense and diversified small cities in the country. A good oil production for this period is a cheerful addition to the wealth of the community.

#### OAKLAND TOWNSHIP

Oakland is one of the interior townships of the county, bounded on the northwest by Plum township, on the northeast by Cherrytree, on the east by Cornplanter, on the south by Sugar Creek, and on the west by Jackson. Its first

officers were appointed in 1841, and the machinery of the local administration placed in operation.

Several branches of Two Mile run, Sugar creek and Cherrytree run have their sources here. The township is largely agricultural in its character and one of the most productive in the county in this respect.

*Pioneers.*—That part of Oakland formerly part of Plum township having been included in the sixth donation district, in which it was difficult to secure and complete a title, and the southern part of the township having been embraced in the Holland Company's surveys, the tract of vacant land of varying width lying between the two, open to settlement on the general terms prescribed by the State, was naturally selected by the first permanent settlers. It was moreover a region of comparative fertility, as indicated by the timber, and newcomers were attracted at an early period. Lawrence Dempsey was probably the first. A native of Ireland, of Scotch extraction, he became a resident of Center county, Pa., at the close of the Revolutionary war, and in 1797 came into the wilds of the upper Allegheny valley, making some improvements on what later became the Cauvel farm, not far from the old graveyard in the vicinity of Dempseytown. Here he planted an orchard, one of the earliest in the county and certainly the first in Oakland township; several old and gnarled trees yet remain. He had two sons, Peter and David, the former hotelkeeper at Dempseytown for many years, the latter prominent in county affairs, having been elected to the legislature after his service in the war of 1812. Lawrence Dempsey died in one of the eastern counties of the State, but his wife and sons rest in the family graveyard here. Dempsey is a common family name still, in this and nearby townships.

Robert McElhaney moved here in 1798 from Westmoreland county, but moved away before his death; he was of Scotch-Irish extraction. William McClain came the same year, settling where Zebulon Beatty lived, and is buried on that farm; of his two sons, William, Jr., moved to Virginia in 1810, and none of his posterity is here now. James Gordon, another arrival in 1798, was born and reared in Ireland, and after coming to America married in eastern Pennsylvania, bringing his wife and one son, Alexander, with him to Venango county. He sold his Oakland township property to James Haslet and removed to Sugar creek, above Cooperstown, later going to Ohio. The son mentioned inherited his interests.

In 1800 a number of new settlers came in, among them Jonah Reynolds, who moved from New York State and located on the Oil City road, at the crossing of the road from Franklin to Titusville, afterward selling his farm to William Hays, by whose name the property was generally known. Reynolds then removed to Greenville, where his descendants were well known. Charles Stevenson, a native of Scotland, came to this county from Mifflin county in 1800. He settled in Pennsylvania before the Revolution, served as a soldier in the Continental army, and at the close of the war located in Mifflin. In partnership with his brother-in-law, George Kean, who came here in 1802, he bought a tract of 400 acres, selling his interest therein in 1805 to John Hays and removing to Cherrytree township, near the village of Cherrytree. Eleven years later he moved to Adams county, Ohio, where he passed the remainder of his life. William Moorehead, another settler of 1800, first settled a farm on Oil Creek road as originally laid out (part of which was later owned by George Turner), moving from here to Cincinnati, where it is said he made a fortune in the shoe business. Edward Patchel, Sr., an old man, came here with two sons, Edward (Jr.) and James, the family taking up two 400-acre tracts, later in the possession of various members of the Prichard family. James Patchel moved to Ohio in 1828, and his brother joined him there after selling the property under power of attorney from him. James Mason, a native of Northumberland county, Pa., born in 1794, came to that part of Oakland township then included in Sugar Creek with his parents, in 1800, and died in 1876; he was a soldier in the war of 1812, and saw active service.

In 1802 Alexander McCormick made a location here with his family, subsequently removing to Mercer county. He was born in Scotland. The same year Alexander Fowler, son of George Fowler of Franklin, located on the Oil City road at Lamy Church; after leaving these parts he joined the regular army. As already noted George Kean also came here in 1802, arriving with his family June 16th of that year, and remaining in the township until his death, May 3, 1861. He was born in 1766 at Germantown, Pa., son of Cornelius Kean, who came to Pennsylvania from Ireland in 1757 and served in the American army during the Revolution, dying in Mifflin county when eighty-four years old. George Kean first came to this section in 1798, with his brother William, returning three years later and building

a house a mile south of Dempseytown, to which he brought his family the next year. His son Joseph, who was a year old when the family came here, made his permanent home in the township, and was probably its oldest resident at the time of his death.

In 1803 Francis Carter, a native of Ireland, settled in the vicinity of Dempseytown, and remained here until his death at an advanced age. He was a young man when he came to Pennsylvania, served in the Revolutionary war, and was in the military service at Pittsburgh and Franklin, moving to Erie and returning to Franklin in 1796. The following year he settled on Sugar creek, a mile below Coopers-town, but eventually removed to Oakland township.

In 1803 also came William Hays and William Reed, the former coming from Ireland when forty years old and removing to Venango county with his brother John, dying at the residence of Grier Hays, on the tract he first settled. William Reed was born in Ireland and arrived in Pennsylvania in 1798, settling in Oakland some five years later. He enlisted for service in the war of 1812, being a member of the company of Captain McCombs, and Reed's run was named for him.

Philip Walls, who came in 1804, bought land from Lawrence Dempsey on the Titusville road, which passed into the ownership of his descendants.

Philip Kees, who settled here in 1805, was born and reared in Germany and was a veteran of the Revolutionary war. He bought 200 acres from George Kean in the year mentioned and made improvements, but after some residence here removed to a point on the Monongahela river, twenty miles above Pittsburgh. His improvements were taken over by Henry Booth, one of the first medical practitioners in this part of the county.

John Fetterman, a native of eastern Pennsylvania, of German parentage, came here in 1805, and served many years here as justice of the peace.

Samuel Turner, another early resident of Oakland township, came to Franklin in 1800 and assisted in quarrying stone for some of the first houses in the town. Subsequently he moved up the river, making a location at what is now the site of South Oil City and passing four years there. He was occupied at surveying with Samuel Dale for three summers, after which he went to sea, returning by way of New Orleans, and living in Cherrytree township fifteen years. It was from that place that he came to the farm in Oakland where he passed

the remainder of his life, dying Nov. 18, 1869, aged eighty years.

*Population.*—In 1850 the population of the township was 837; 1870, 1,082; 1880, 1,214; 1890, 1,062; 1900, 1,029; 1910, 820.

The Oil Creek road, surveyed by Samuel M. Irwin, was the first public highway opened through the township. Another early traveled route was the road from Sugar lake, intersecting the Titusville road two miles from Dempseytown.

*Industries.*—In 1803 James Patchel built the first distillery in the township, at a small stream on his farm, using the upper story of the building for a dwelling, while the lower was equipped with the imperfect and crude appliances then employed in distilling. James Gordon also had a distillery, built at an early date, and there were at least three others, the Speer, McElhaney and Smith establishments. In fact, whiskey distilling was one of the general early industries. The outdoor life and vigorous exercise of the pioneer residents could oxidize the hydrocarbons without much inconvenience. Whiskey also found a ready sale among the Indians. Benjamin Franklin once remarked, in his quaint way, that perhaps rum was the divinely appointed means of removing the Redmen. It did remove many of them. They were truly "children," although of the forest, and could not ignore the elation and visions following the fire water. A number of the white settlers were also "removed" by the same cause. But they had had thousands of years' experience with this fiery corruption of food. The weak ones had been slain, the tougher ones had survived, so that the Europeans were pretty well grown in this respect, beyond compare with the children of forest and plain. Of all the races of men the Indians are the only ones yet discovered which had no pastoral animals or intoxicating beverages.

Very probably the experience of this township is moderate indeed compared with some portions of the country. Pioneer counties and commonwealths, the country over, in their early days, from Puritan New England to California and other Western regions, bristling with Bowie knives and revolvers, have produced floods of the stuff. New England rum was as respectable as the sacred codfish on Boston's golden dome, or the blue grass product of Kentucky, "Mountain moonshine," or the applejack of the South, or the red whiskey of Scrubgrass. All these and many others have been the captains of hysteria. Now different sentiments prevail.

Samuel Beatty's tannery seems to have been

the only industry of the kind here in pioneer days, and was in operation only a few years. Wooden troughs were used for vats, and as there was no bark mill the bark was trampled by horses to prepare it for use.

*Dempseytown*.—The site of this town was the first work done by Samuel Dale in his official capacity after being commissioned deputy surveyor. On Sept. 2, 1800, he surveyed 401 acres of land for Peter Dempsey, and an adjoining tract for Lawrence Dempsey the next day. The town was laid out by Peter Dempsey, who built a house on almost the same site as the old hotel which he kept for many years, and which was eventually destroyed by fire. Thomas Carter built one of the first houses in the place, on the ground long occupied by the David E. Thomas blacksmith shop, one of the first frame buildings erected in the county and the very first in the township. The weather boarding was fastened with wooden pins. He was one of the characters of the place. At an advanced age he married a widow almost as old as himself, and he lived to be ninety-eight, his wife surviving to the age of one hundred and three.

The first permanent store in the town was established by James R. McClintock, in company with Brewer, Watson & Merrick, and McClintock also kept hotel there many years. Christian Cauvel, blacksmith, was the first mechanic in the vicinity. Two general stores and a feed store, and two blacksmith shops, constitute the present business interests at the place, which has always been one of some importance in this respect, being the center of a fine agricultural territory.

This town has never had an oil boom, and is more of a typical rural village than most of the inland towns of Venango county. It is nine miles from Franklin, ten miles from Titusville and eight miles from Oil City. At present it has about 125 inhabitants, and has rural free delivery service from Franklin.

A short distance from the town is the Dempseytown graveyard, one of the oldest burial places in this part of the county, and some pioneer names are found among those interred there: Rachel, wife of Jonah Reynolds, died April 2, 1813, in her thirty-ninth year; Mary, wife of Lawrence Dempsey, died in September, 1825, in her eighty-fourth year; Jane, wife of John Caruthers, died Sept. 16, 1827, in her thirty-ninth year; Mary, wife of John Kelly, died Dec. 19, 1829, in her forty-fifth year; Lewis Herring died Sept. 23, 1836, aged seventy-six years; John Kelly died June 13, 1849, in his seventy-fourth year.

#### JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Jackson township was formed in 1845, out of the contiguous portions of Plum, Oakland, Canal and Sugar Creek, being bounded on the north by Plum, on the east by Oakland, on the south by Sugar Creek, on the west by Canal, and on the northwest by Crawford county. Its entire territory is drained by Sugar creek and its branches. At that point in the course of Sugar creek where it is crossed by the southern line of Jackson township the valley of the stream is fully half a mile wide. The channel of the creek is near the bluffs on the east, leaving a level expanse of meadows with a gradual slope from the west. At an early date this was called "the prairie." It was not covered with a dense forest like the surrounding country, but merely with a thick growth of underbrush, and was readily brought under cultivation.

*Pioneers*.—Robert Beatty is known to have been the first settler within the limits of the township and that part of the valley of Sugar creek from its mouth to Townville, Crawford county, coming from one of the eastern counties of the State, and was here probably as early as 1796, his name being found on the ledgers of George Power and Edward Hale before 1800. He made a settlement on "the prairie," and remained here the rest of his life, dying May 26, 1823, in his sixty-third year, suddenly, the day after attending the funeral of Mrs. John Wilson, when he expressed the opinion that his own death would occur soon. He was buried under a clump of trees on the Shaw farm. He was a Democrat in politics, and like his Scotch ancestors a Presbyterian in religion, giving the ground upon which the Sugar Creek church of that denomination was built. His large family consisted of four sons and seven daughters, viz.: John (who was the father of Rev. Robert Beatty, a well known minister), Francis, Samuel, Robert, Mary, Nancy, Sarah, Elizabeth, Isabel, Ann and Lila.

Two Revolutionary veterans settled here in 1797, William Cooper, probably the second settler in the township, at Cooperstown (see below), and Francis Carter, on Sugar creek below Cooperstown. The latter removed to Oakland the following decade, and died at Dempseytown, this county, at a very advanced age.

James McCurdy, another Revolutionary veteran among the early settlers, and well advanced in years at the time of his arrival, settled in the valley of the creek above Beatty. His son John McCurdy, who inherited the homestead, reared a large family. Other early

residents in this part of the valley were John McFadden, James Alexander and Robert Mason.

Samuel Plumer, father of Arnold Plumer, lived in this township about ten years, coming in 1800 from Allegheny county, and in 1810 returning to that section, where he died in 1820. His widow and family subsequently came back to Venango county, Mrs. Plumer dying here Oct. 2, 1847. Their son Arnold was one of the first white children born in Jackson township, and as one of the leading members of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania and one whose counsels prevailed with its national chiefs, as well as a man of unblemished honor in every relation of life, he remains at the head of the most distinguished citizens of the county.

In 1811 Samuel Small moved here with his wife and family of four children, Samuel H., Moses, Mary and Jane, and acquired a tract of 375 acres where his sons remained, the daughters removing west. Samuel Small was a native of Ireland, and lived in Bucks county, Pa., before settling in Venango. He was a carpenter by trade. All of his property is still held by his descendants, his posterity being among the most substantial citizenship in the locality.

William Crain, whose posterity were once numerous in this section, came from eastern Pennsylvania, and had five sons, George, William, James, John and Charles. A number of the family are buried in the Sugar Creek churchyard.

One of the early settlers on Sugar creek above Cooperstown was William McIntosh, a soldier of the war of 1812. He operated a distillery and gristmill there. We have a record of two of his children, A. J. and Mrs. Milliecent Green, who made their homes in Plum township.

John Bleakley, Sr., whose posterity are among the prominent citizens of the county, resided in Jackson township until his death, Sept. 11, 1869. He was a native of Ireland, and came to this country in June, 1819.

John Gibbon was one of the earliest settlers on the Lake branch of Sugar creek.

*Population.*—By 1850 the township had a population of 985; 1870, 720; 1880, 789; 1890, 842; 1900, 854; 1910, 592.

Cooperstown was so named for the Revolutionary veteran who was the first settler at its site, which is very near the geographical center of Jackson township, at the confluence of three principal branches of Sugar creek, about four miles from its mouth. As usual, in a roll-

ing country of this character, the roads followed the course of the streams, and the highways of this part of the county converge at this point, making it the logical location for a town. William Cooper was from one of the eastern counties of Pennsylvania, born in 1747, served in the Revolution, and in the allotment of lands in the sixth donation district secured the tract now occupied by the town. He died Feb. 1, 1813, in his sixty-sixth year, his wife, Rachel, dying May 16, 1821, in her sixty-seventh year, and they are buried in the Methodist churchyard at Cooperstown. They had five sons and one daughter, Samuel, William, John, Philson, James and Jane (wife of Robert Mason). James kept store, but removed to Iowa early in the forties; John was a hatter by trade, and William a blacksmith.

Robert Bradley, the first person outside of the Cooper family to locate here, settled at Cooperstown in 1824. He had come to Venango county with his father's family in 1816, was a millwright by trade, and became a well known citizen, serving a term as county commissioner and many years as justice of the peace. He died March 23, 1872, aged seventy-six years.

James Kingsley came here in March, 1827, and established one of the first cloth dressing establishments in the county, being a cloth dresser by calling. He was a native of Fort Ann, N. Y., and was married at Centerville, Crawford Co., Pa., to Louisa Patton, daughter of Joseph Patton, the founder of that town.

Edward Sweeny, a native of Ireland, was a prominent citizen of Cooperstown from the time of his arrival here in 1828 until his death. His parents intended him for the priesthood and had him educated accordingly, sending him to the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth, near Dublin, but he did not wish to enter the church and left college without completing the course, coming to America. In Philadelphia he found employment as a book-keeper, later following that occupation at Murrysville, Butler Co., Pa., where he had joined friends settled there. Subsequently he obtained a position in the office of the furnace company at Oil Creek, and while thus engaged purchased a farm near Cooperstown, the place later occupied by his son, settling there himself in 1828. His unusual intelligence and acquirements, together with the fact that he was a man of absolute integrity, won him the confidence and esteem of the community, where his gifts were of great practical value to his fellow citizens. He was almost invariably called upon to execute their legal documents,

held the office of justice of the peace for thirty-five years, and frequently served as school director. In politics he was a Democrat.

The residents of Cooperstown in 1837 were located as follows: Robert Mason, son of James Mason (a pioneer of Oakland township) and son-in-law of William Cooper, lived in a house on the Franklin road at the edge of the town; he was a farmer and miller, taking charge of the Cooper mill after Mrs. Rachel Cooper died. The next house above was the frame building erected by Alexander McCalmont in which the first store in the town was started under the management of William W. Shaw, James Cooper succeeding to the business, which he was operating in 1837; he removed to Iowa early in the forties. The next house was one built by John McKinzie (son of Angus McKinzie, of Sugar Creek township), who kept the first hotel there. It was purchased in 1837 by John Kelly, a retired farmer from Center county, and was later occupied by Robert Crawford. John Cooper, one of the sons of William, lived in a frame building on the same side of Sugar creek, and did a fair business at his trade of hatter. William Cooper, his brother, was a blacksmith, and lived near where Jacob Hillier afterward had his home, removing to Erie county in 1837. David W. S. Cook, to whom he sold his property, was from Center county, purchased several mills, and at once became a prominent man in the town. These were all the families living on the east side of the creek at that time.

James Cook, brother of David W. S. Cook, was born at Spring Mills, Center Co., Pa., Jan. 11, 1798, had a tannery on the south side of Factory street in Cooperstown, near the creek and bridge, and a dwelling house on the same lot, and resided here until his death, Feb. 26, 1878.

Proceeding up Franklin street, the first house was the dwelling and store of William W. Shaw. The next was Robert Bradley's residence, in the rear of Bradley's store building, he having bought Shaw's store in partnership with John Fetterman and carried on business many years; they dealt largely in live stock. On the same side of Franklin street, opposite the academy, James Kingsley had erected a large frame building, afterward used as an hotel. James Foster owned two small houses on the east side of the street, living in one himself, while the other was occupied by William Perrine. Edward Sweeny lived near the house later occupied by his son. Joseph Hillier lived in part of the factory build-

ing, in which vicinity were a number of tenements. Dr. James Williams, a Baptist minister, lived on the west bank of the creek, below the bridge, and in addition to his clerical and other professional duties was interested in various business enterprises.

It was about this period that Dr. S. Bates and others attempted to give the town the name of Pekin, which is referred to in several legal notices, but it never acquired any popularity.

The development and prosperity of Cooperstown were due largely to the thriving industries in and around the town. The local grist and saw mills were among the earliest in the county. William Cooper's gristmill, built early in the nineteenth century, was the first on Sugar creek, located on the east side just above the bridge. He put up a small one-story building, with primitive and meager equipment, improved machinery being subsequently installed. After his death his widow assumed charge of the establishment, doing the work about the mill herself until her son-in-law, Robert Mason, took charge; he continued the business many years.

The Fetterman mill was two miles above Cooperstown. It was built by John Fetterman, and subsequently owned in turn by Jacob Geist, Arnold Plumer and Dr. Robert Crawford, a later owner being Samuel McAlevy, afterward sheriff of Venango county.

In 1846-47 Rich, Booth & Hillier built a gristmill with two run of native stone, afterward buhrs, which was operated for several decades but has now fallen into decay, the machinery exposed to the weather.

A mile and a half from Cooperstown, at the lower bridge, one Robison built a mill which David W. S. Cook owned for a time.

Early in the forties John McKinzie built a mill on the Lake branch which he operated until the early eighties, when it was destroyed by fire.

Alexander Wilson owned and operated a sawmill on the same stream which was very useful while that section was being cleared of the timber. He also had a store there and kept the post office, which was known as Wilson's Mills.

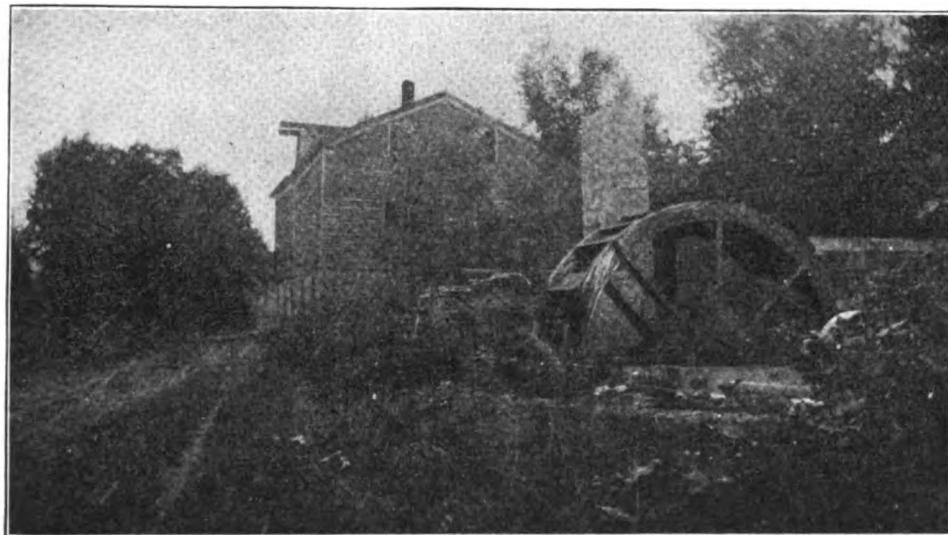
Of the two distilleries operated in the vicinity of Cooperstown in the early days, that of James and Alexander Gordon stood on Dr. Robert Crawford's farm, and the other one above Cooperstown, in the valley of the creek, conducted by William McIntosh.

James Cook did a large business at his tannery near the creek, below the bridge, which was equipped with vats and a bark mill, being

among the most complete establishments of the kind in the county.

There was no profitable way of disposing of the vast quantities of timber cut when the country was being cleared, and it was customary to roll the logs together in great heaps and burn them, the ashes having considerable value for the saleratus, alkali and potash which they yielded. Two asheries were in operation in Jackson township, one at Cooperstown built by Rushmore Brothers, which passed into the hands of James Cooper shortly afterward, the other about a mile and a quarter up the Lake branch, established by a man named Gilman.

walked from Franklin to Cooperstown, in 1832-33, there was only one house between the two towns; the road was a trail, the land unsettled. The gristmill is in the building still standing in the picture, though it has fallen now, and the old waterwheels and other machinery are exposed to view and to the weather. The mills were run by water from a wing dam half a mile above. The old banks of the flume are still here, and some parts of the gate admitting water to mills below. An interesting collection of pebbles is found in the old mill races, where they have been thrown by the tillers of the soil. The



THE OLD WOOLEN AND GRIST MILL AT COOPERSTOWN, 1836  
(Photograph by Mrs. W. H. Wise)

Part Standing is Gristmill. The tumbled down part is the first woolen mill built in the county.

During the thirties the Cooperstown woolen mills were established—the first of their kind of any magnitude in the county. The original projector, John Rich, had owned and operated a woolen mill on Chatham's run, near Jersey Shore, Lycoming Co., Pa., before locating here. He visited this locality in 1834, secured the mill site and arranged for the erection of a factory building, operations at the mill commencing the next year under the direction of Joseph Hillier, and the business was conducted by Rich, Booth & Hillier, Booth & Hillier, and S. B. Hillier in turn, until 1890-91. The mill was a two-story frame structure, 60 feet long, equipped with all the necessary appliances of a full one-set mill. This mill is shown in the picture of the old mill at Cooperstown. When Mr. Hillier

pebbles are of varying sizes, from a few inches to a foot and a half in diameter. They are quite pure quartz, smooth, round or elliptical. Very old residents are they, and they tell a story. Millions of years ago they were torn from flint beds far north in Canada and brought to this place by glaciers, grinding out lakes and valleys and preparing the good soil of this locality, an unusual condition in this county.

The cloth made by the woolen mill was famous for years in this section. Booth has a mill in the East, making similar material, which is highly valued here. The old books were very interesting, the accounts with Hamilton McClintock and others on Oil creek showing large purchases of oil at prices ranging from fifty cents to a dollar a gallon.

The iron industry also contributed considerably to the local prosperity. About 1850 there were four furnaces in operation within a radius of four miles of Cooperstown: Texas Furnace, built and operated by James Porter, from Indiana county, Pa., was leased for a time by McCalmont & Bush; it had a capacity of ten or fifteen tons per day, getting motive power for the blast from Sugar creek, ore at different banks in the neighborhood, and charcoal from the surrounding forests. Liberty Furnace, four miles west of the town on Trout run, was built by Reynolds, Lowrie & Company. Union Furnace, a mile above the borough on the east side of Sugar creek, was built by Geist & Williams, who sold the plant to Hughes & Benn, its last proprietors. The Valley Furnace, the fourth, was over in Sugar Creek township.

Kraemer & Company had a foundry at Cooperstown, where stoves, plow irons and similar articles were made.

In 1849 James Kingsley built the Roll carding mill, which he and his family operated for over forty years, the buildings and franchise being eventually acquired by A. P. Miles, who established a planing mill, now out of operation.

J. G. Wagner's flour mill was also an important industry in the borough. In 1888 a local company built a creamery, but it was burned in August, 1889, and not rebuilt. The only manufacturing industry in the borough now is that of the Cooperstown Milling Company, which fully supplies the local demand for flour and feed.

*Oil Development.*—On Sept. 6, 1860, in removing a fragment of steel from their well in Cooperstown, Booth & Hillier struck oil at a depth of 280 feet, the first discovered in this part of the county. A light production was obtained several miles to the north, and eastward, toward Sugar Lake, there was a very small output, which still continues smaller.

Cooperstown now contains, and is the center of, an intelligent, active and prosperous people. It is surrounded by farms as fine as any in the county. It is connected by a paved road with Franklin, six miles away. As a center of wealth and of distribution of commodi-

ties, it is a place to be reckoned with, increasing with the coming years.

Though the population increased slowly in the early days Cooperstown gradually assumed the proportions of a small village, but it was not incorporated as a borough until Nov. 25, 1858. The petition was filed Aug. 23d of that year, approved by the grand jury on the following day, confirmed *nisi* Aug. 27th and absolutely Nov. 25th. At the first election of officers, held the third Friday of March, 1859, J. P. Byers was chosen burgess; L. W. Ranney, Robert Crawford, Thomas Kelley, N. Wood and R. A. Bower, members of council. The following have officiated since 1900:

1900-01-02—Burgess, H. B. Bradley; Councilmen, 1900—G. W. Dill (three years) C. W. Bower (three years), J. R. Mendenhall (one year), J. A. Karnes, Lew A. Ray; 1901—W. H. Shaw, D. R. Mendoshe, Homer Jackson; 1902—John Gurnee; J. Duncan; Charles Robinson.

1903-04-05—Burgess, W. J. Bradley; Councilmen, 1903—Grant Shaffstall, C. D. Rodgers, J. S. Gates; 1904—A. P. Miles, S. G. Bean, H. J. Hanna; 1905—William Gates, J. W. Gurney.

1906-07-08—Burgess, W. A. Crawford; Councilmen, 1906—J. S. Gates, C. H. Hillier, C. W. King; 1907—J. W. Gurney, A. D. Ceas, S. B. Hillier; 1908—J. W. Gurney, W. W. Proper, William Thompson.

1909-10-11—Burgess, W. F. Rice; Councilman, 1909—W. W. Proper, S. G. Bean; 1910—J. S. Gates, S. B. Hillier; 1911—J. W. Gurney, Samuel Eich.

1913-15—Burgess, W. F. Rice; Councilmen, 1913—S. B. Hillier, McClelland Rogers, William Proper, S. G. Bean; 1915—D. B. Hood, J. W. Gurney, W. F. Rice, S. G. Bean.

1917—Burgess, J. B. Gates (four years); Councilmen—Harry Proper (four years), McClelland Rogers (four years).

As noted elsewhere, owing to changes in legislation there were no borough elections in 1912, 1914 and 1916, officials holding over during those years.

In 1870 the population of the borough was 264; 1880, 297; 1890, 290; 1900, 243; 1910, 181.

## CHAPTER XXVII

### TOWNSHIPS AND BOROUGHS (Concluded)

**PRESIDENT TOWNSHIP—THE CLAPP LANDS—CLINTON TOWNSHIP—CLINTONVILLE BOROUGH—KENNERDELL—JANESTOWN—OIL CREEK TOWNSHIP—PLEASANTVILLE BOROUGH—MINERAL TOWNSHIP—RAYMILTON—VICTORY TOWNSHIP**

#### PRESIDENT TOWNSHIP

President township was erected from parts of Pinegrove, Cornplanter and Tionesta (Forest county) April 3, 1850, by act of the legislature. It lies in the eastern part of Venango county, on both sides of the Allegheny river. North of the river the adjoining townships are Allegheny and Cornplanter; south of the river, Cranberry and Pinegrove. Pithole creek forms the line of division between President and Cornplanter; the other streams flowing into the Allegheny on the north are Muskrat run and Stewart's run, while the principal stream on the south is Hemlock creek, which rises in Pinegrove township and has a rapid current. Here, as elsewhere in its course, the river is bounded by high hills, and the surface for several miles inland is scarcely susceptible of cultivation; in fact, there is probably less arable land in President than in any other township in the county. This has been abundantly compensated for, however, by its oil and timber resources.

*Settlement.*—McCrea run, a little stream emptying into the south bank of the Allegheny in President township, perpetuates the name of its first settler, Patrick McCrea, a native of Ireland, and no doubt the first Catholic to settle in Venango county. His father, Michael McCrea, was a captain of light horse in the British army and was killed at the battle of Brandywine, and Patrick McCrea held a commission in the same service, but left the army because he had no inclination to serve England. Settling at Richmond, Va., he taught school. He had also studied medicine in Ireland. It was in 1797 that he removed to the wilds of western Pennsylvania, locating at what has since become the village of Eagle Rock—the only settler along the river between Franklin and Warren at that time. He had a

log cabin about eighteen by twenty feet in dimensions, with clapboard roof and wooden chimney, which was removed about a hundred years ago, and his log barn stood several rods farther down the river, at the site later occupied by Hugh McCrea's house. He secured 393 acres of land, but he did not follow the pioneer occupations—neither farming, hunting nor fishing—not having been trained for manual pursuits. But his mental acquirements made him a valued member of the community, where he remained an honored and respected citizen until his death. He enjoyed the confidence and friendship of Cornplanter, and often acted as agent for the Indians in disposing of their furs, honey and bear grease, and he extended a warm welcome to the other white men who joined him in the settlement of this region.

In 1802 John Henry settled on a tract of 100 acres at what has ever since been known as Henry's Bend, and died there March 16, 1858, at the ripe old age of eighty-seven years. Like McCrea he was an Irish Catholic, and a very worthy, intelligent citizen. His obituary in the *Spectator* for March, 1858, shows that he came into the county in 1798, and resided fifty-six years on the farm where he died. Though he had a large family, there are no descendants in the township.

Samuel Rhoads, another early settler in the vicinity of Eagle Rock, was there probably as early as 1803, and acquired 100 acres of land, which he sold in 1813 or 1814 to Francis Culbertson, who came hither from the north of Cherry run on Oil creek as mentioned in Cornplanter township. The latter also secured 300 acres adjoining the McCrea property, by virtue of settlement and improvement. Richard Williams, who came from Philadelphia, located at the mouth of Muskrat run in 1821. On the north side of the river above Presi-

dent, Alexander McCray and Thomas McCalmont were early residents.

Before Alexander Holeman established his ferry in the extreme eastern part of the township, just below the island named for him, Patrick McCrea transported travelers across the river, two canoes lashed together serving the purposes of a ferryboat. Horses were taken across in this way also. Holeman opened a road at his own expense from the State road, at a point near Fryburg, to the vicinity of Pithole in order to have people use his ferry, but the construction of the Susquehanna turnpike in 1819 attracted travel entirely away from his route.

Settlement south of the river was slow in starting and progressed leisurely. The first mill in the township was built in this section by Robert Elliott, who removed from Franklin and settled on a tract of 1,000 acres at the mouth of Hemlock creek. He was comparatively well-to-do and became an influential citizen. His son William Elliott was a prominent county official, and the name is still well represented among the estimable citizens of Franklin.

*Population.*—In 1870 the township had 618 inhabitants; 1880, 416; 1890, 366; 1900, 289; 1910, 387.

*Villages.*—President station, on the Pennsylvania railroad, is on the north bank of the Allegheny, with the village itself across the river, and at the mouth of Hemlock creek, a settlement of perhaps a dozen houses and a present population of 45. Robert Elliott was the first resident there, and his business activities contributed to its early prosperity, as various other industries have affected it since. The place attained its greatest prosperity while the furnace built by Robert Clapp was in operation. It also experienced some business activity during the period of lumber rafting. E. E. Clapp built a large hotel there, and a number of well constructed roads radiating from the village to different parts of his estate. There is a post office at this point, one general store, a blacksmith shop and a ferry. The hotel and other remains are symbols of an unfulfilled dream. It was intended to establish an ideal pleasure resort here. But what Joseph Conrad would sturdily and unreproved call "chance" intervened. Rock-wood and its neighbors met a want, and hope was more than deferred. It is a beautiful spot in which to rest. The eddy is beloved of faithful fishermen who like to cast the fascinating fly even if no fish reward their exertions. The deeply green hills throw their shadows over the river,

and at nightfall are as inscrutable as the Pyramids. The mournful voice of the whippoorwill comes from hidden depths and seems a part of the mysteries of life. There are quiet places with reminders of the forward-looking man of other days who carried out fancies that still attract. The watering troughs named "Horses' Delight," the signboards directing the passer-by to the points of interest, all had a touch of originality. The signs were erected upon pine posts stripped of bark, as thick as telegraph poles, set in cement, roofed over to preserve the lettering. The roads were graded almost like a railroad bed, and were kept clear of underbrush by the fifteen or more men who lived upon Mr. Clapp's land. The roads generally led nowhere through the fourteen thousand acres of his estate, or returned to starting point, or connected with a public highway. In winter the men cut down lumber, worked it into beams and boards, piled it up to rot. There was a walk a third of a mile in length from near the hotel to Hemlock creek, of pine posts and planks, strong enough for a freight train. Mr. Clapp was a providence to the men, giving them employment. They were always busy. Perhaps his innate goodness in seeing to the welfare of the fifteen families that he gathered about him to care for his estate is more clearly discerned now than during his life. No one in trouble ever sought his aid in vain. It may seem that his dream of developing this unique place was fairer than any reality. But dreams themselves are realities.

It was in 1846 that Ralph Clapp settled at President with his family, consisting of wife and six children. In 1854-55 he built a blast furnace on Hemlock creek, about a mile from its mouth, whose ruins are yet distinguishable. It was about equal in size and capacity to the majority of such establishments in the county, but the period for profitable iron manufacture was past, and the President furnace was banked within a few years, never to resume. Mr. Clapp died in 1865.

The first oil obtained in President township was found about two miles above the mouth of Pithole. The first well drilled began production at six hundred barrels a day, and yielded sixty thousand barrels before it was abandoned. Directly opposite, on the Henry farm, Hussey & McBride obtained a very large production in 1860. In the years that followed a number of oil companies prospected in different parts of the township, with varying success. In 1890 the Clapp tract was probably the largest undeveloped territory in

the oil regions. The Deshner farm adjoining was the scene of active developments under Standard auspices, the product being piped to Oil City by a line constructed by the National Transit Company. The pump station, a mile from the village of President, was placed in operation May 7, 1889, with T. J. Richards in charge.

After E. E. Clapp's death in 1897 or 1898 his immense holdings of land, from eight thousand to ten thousand acres, were sold to a large company which disposed of the timber rights to the Wheeler & Dusenberry Lumber Company. After the timber had been removed the land owners bored for oil with a fair degree of success. The company leased lots along the river front and up Hemlock creek on long-time leases. The lots contained from a quarter of an acre to an acre or more, oil rights reserved, to be occupied by cottages and as gardens and little farms. At least twenty of these cottages have been built, and are occupied from spring to fall. With fine gardens, purest spring water, air full of ozone, good fishing and hunting in season, there is here an ideal health resort, more than realizing E. E. Clapp's fancy. The big hotel is falling into decay; but most of the people that he brought there still find profitable employment gardening or working for the summer lessees, or at the oil wells.

Cutting the timber required several years. Miles of rails were laid throughout the estate, for hauling the logs to the steam mills erected at Eagle Rock. Many houses were built also, to accommodate the lumbermen. When the lumbering ceased these houses were sold very cheaply, and used in other places. Eagle Rock and Henry's Bend received a notable accession of business while the logs were being brought from the woods, manufactured into lumber and shipped by the lumber company's cars to the yards.

In the early operations about Walnut Bend, between 1860 and 1865, though a number of fairly productive wells were brought in (the largest of which yielded about two hundred barrels a day), the operations were limited to a comparatively small area along the river, in accordance with the theory then prevailing, that oil courses coincided with water courses. Moreover, the crude methods then employed were by no means efficient enough to exhaust even such territory as was exploited. In August, 1888, these circumstances were brought to the attention of C. C. Joy, who was influenced by consideration of them to re-lease all old territory in that section, together with ex-

tensive tracts inland, aggregating a thousand acres, and make tests of its productiveness. In the spring of 1889 five test wells were drilled, all of which yielded satisfactory returns. Most of the wells are still producing. The pump station, one mile up Hemlock, is still in active use.

Eagle Rock is a post office and station on the Pennsylvania railroad, maintaining one store and a population of less than fifty. Patrick McCrea left an account of the early settlement of the locality. The village came into existence during the excitement incident to the first oil developments on Pithole creek, and was an active place while the railroad was in course of construction. The old McCrea burial ground, several rods from Hugh McCrea's house which is still standing, contains the remains of members of several of the pioneer families. It is the oldest burying ground in this part of the county.

Henry's Bend is half a mile above Oleopolis. The two or three farmhouses occupied in the winter are served their mail from Eagle Rock. There are also farmers and oil men living back from the river. Then there are from twenty to twenty-five summer homes, occupied by their owners, their families and friends, or rented part or whole time to "fresh air fiends," fishers or hunters, from early spring to late fall. The number of these comfortable cottages increases annually. The Pennsylvania trains run to accommodate the men of the family, who leave Oil City at four p. m., returning to business in the morning. It is a great place for the women and children. Each house has a fine garden, the soil being very productive.

Baum is just an occasional stop on the Pennsylvania railroad at the mouth of Stewart's run. A famous sulphur spring about three miles upstream, and little springs all along, trout and birds and pure cold water attract the sportsman in the early spring days. Near the railroad are two dwelling houses and a schoolhouse. In one of the dwellings lived a lone man for a number of years. To his rare visitors he complained of the whippoorwills, saying they made him lonesome and homesick with their constant mournful calls toward dark.

#### CLINTON TOWNSHIP

Three townships of Venango county touch the Butler county line. Of these, Clinton occupies the middle position. Its northeast boundary for two or three miles is the Allegheny river, and with this exception the town-

ship lines conform to those of adjacent townships. From east to west the width slightly exceeds four miles; the distance from north to south is seven miles. Allowing for the corner cut off by the river, a safe estimate of its area is twenty-eight square miles, or 17,920 acres. Scrubgrass creek with its numerous branches drains almost the entire area. This stream rises in Butler county and takes a general northeasterly course. Trout and Bullion runs are its principal branches from the west. Steep, high hills covered with pine forests form its narrow valley. The uplands are nearly level, containing much rich, arable land and valuable trees. The creek is named from a variety of coarse grass that once grew along its banks, but which is now rare. It was used for scrubbing and scouring in early days, by pioneers in many parts of the country. Its local name in southern Venango was appropriate. It does not survive in cultivated or pastured fields. The people of New York and the northeastern States called it "bullrush," telling the seven-year-old that grandma used it for scouring rough floors, when soap was scarce. Scrubgrass is an etymological triumph.

*Pioneers.*—With the possible exception of Franklin and its immediate vicinity, the region drained by Scrubgrass creek was settled earlier than any other portion of the county, nor is it surprising that attempts at improvement should have been made here earlier than in less favored localities. Following the Allegheny river, the tide of immigration to this section of the State passed over Butler county and into Venango without apparent regard for county lines. Here was a stretch of country well watered, conveniently accessible from the older settlements by a great water highway, and, judged by the usual standards, of fairly productive soil. From the records of his work left by Col. Samuel Dale, deputy surveyor, it appears that the pioneers along Scrubgrass creek generally perfected their titles by occupation and improvement, rather than by warrant and purchase, the following memoranda being taken from his notes:

Craft Ghost, 370 acres adjoining lands of John Phipps, Daniel Wasson, Robert Calvert and Robert Donaldson, surveyed Nov. 20, 1800, by virtue of improvement and settlement.

John Phipps, 361 acres, adjoining lands of Samuel Eakin, Patrick Jack and Craft Ghost, surveyed Nov. 20, 1800; 401 acres, adjoining Samuel Eakin, Nathan Phipps, Craft Ghost and Patrick Jack, surveyed Aug. 22, 1804; 376 acres, adjoining Patrick Jack, Aaron Austin,

Daniel Wasson and William McKee, surveyed March 5, 1807, in pursuance of warrant granted Dec. 2, 1805.

Patrick Davidson, 429 acres, adjoining lands of David McConehey, surveyed Nov. 15, 1800, by virtue of improvement and settlement.

John Witherup, a large tract at the mouth of Scrubgrass creek, adjoining lands of Samuel Doty and Aaron Austin, surveyed June 25, 1801, by virtue of improvement and settlement.

Samuel Eakin, 385 acres, adjoining Aaron Austin, Wasson & McKee, John Phipps and Patrick Jack, surveyed May 11, 1803, by virtue of improvement and settlement.

John Kerns, 409 acres, adjoining lands of Thomas Baird, Philip Ghost, Patrick McDowell and Adam Kerns, surveyed Aug. 23, 1804, in pursuance of warrant bearing date May 31, 1804.

Adam Kerns, 414 acres, adjoining lands of John Craig, Samuel Monjar, John Kerns, Adam Huffman and John Cubison.

John Vogus, 400 acres, adjoining lands of Philip Ghost, James Hoffman, Matthew Riddle and Philip Hoffman, surveyed April 1, 1808, in pursuance of warrant bearing date May 6, 1807.

Patrick Farrelly and John W. Hunter, 425 acres, adjoining lands of David Phipps, John Phipps and Robert Donaldson, originally improved by Patrick Jack; surveyed by virtue of settlement of Stephen Sutton, Dec. 22, 1813.

Patrick Farrelly and Henry Hurst, 425 acres, adjoining lands of David Phipps, John Phipps and Robert Donaldson, surveyed Jan. 22, 1818, in pursuance of warrant bearing date March 24, 1817.

Robert Calvert, 403 acres, adjoining lands of William Carter, Matthew Riddle, Robert Donaldson, Daniel Wasson and Andrew Allison, surveyed April 27, 1814, in pursuance of warrant dated Feb. 26, 1814.

Samuel Grimes, 408 acres, adjoining lands of Patrick Davidson, David McConehey, John McClaran and Robert Scott, surveyed March 6, 1807, in pursuance of warrant bearing date Sept. 29, 1806.

The first settlers, Thomas McKee, Matthew Riddle, Thomas Baird, Robert Calvert, John Vogus, Archibald and Patrick Davidson, and Patrick McDowell, arrived in 1796. As the names indicate, they were principally of Irish extraction.

Thomas McKee was born in 1771 in Franklin county, Pa., and was a surveyor by calling, coming to Venango county to secure employment. Much of the county west of the Alle-

gheny was surveyed by him, and he himself made a settlement on a tract of 400 acres including the site of Clintonville, some of his property being still owned by descendants. He was a most enterprising man in both business and public affairs, having been largely interested in the purchase and sale of land, one of the first merchants in his locality, the builder of one of the first sawmills and possessing extensive lumber interests, served a number of years as justice of the peace, and was one of the first associate judges of the county. He brought the first wagon into the township in 1809.

Matthew Riddle, who came to the county in the capacity of chain bearer for McKee, was a native of Roxburghshire, Scotland, and had served in the Revolutionary war. His first acquaintance with Clinton township was made in 1795, and he brought his family from Westmoreland county the following year, securing a tract of 1,200 acres, lying partly in Scrubgrass. His wife died in 1817, his own death occurring in 1820, when his property was divided among his four children, John, Robert, Annie (Mrs. Pollock) and Elizabeth. Matthew Riddle, a grandson of the pioneer, born in 1814, was one of the early teachers of the township. Many of the name are still in Venango county.

John Vogus, who was of German origin, settled in 1796 upon land which descended through his only son, Francis, to William Vogus. W. B. Vogus, a well-to-do farmer in this township at present, near Emlenton, is probably a descendant of William. There is also a William in Victory township, and the name is found in other parts of the county—in Franklin four, in Reno three.

The Davidsons were of Irish extraction, and coming here from one of the counties east of the mountains settled on two adjoining tracts of 400 acres. Archibald Davidson was married, but Patrick was not. While clearing his land the latter broke his arm, and during his convalescence at his brother's house his claim was taken possession of by Peter Walters, who eventually adjusted the ensuing difficulty by the payment of a cow to Davidson. His land passed into the possession of William Cunningham's descendants, his brother's tract to J. B. Henderson and P. M. Hollister.

Thomas Baird was born in Franklin county, Pa., and became well known in Clinton township, where he served many years as justice of the peace. He was a member of the company that went from this locality to the defense of Erie during the war of 1812.

Robert Calvert, who moved here from the

Ligonier valley, in Westmoreland county, had accompanied Matthew Riddle to this region in 1795, and brought his family the following year. His descendants are still prominent in the county and much of the land which he secured is in their possession.

John Phipps, who settled upon a 400-acre tract in Clinton township in 1797, founded a family useful and conspicuous in the development of Venango county to this day. His son David, born in 1793, owned a furnace and grist, saw and woolen mills, and was eminent in public life as well as successful in business. Samuel, another son, born in 1795, was also prominently identified with local interests, having been elected sheriff in 1844; while John, born in 1806, served a number of years as justice of the peace. Hon. Marshall Phipps, the present State senator, was reelected to a second term in November, 1918.

Patrick Coulter, who came to that part of Clinton then known as Scrubgrass township in an early day, was a native of County Derry, Ireland; his son John, born in 1797, was educated for the medical profession and was one of the earliest practitioners in this part of the county, where he also carried on farming. John L. Coulter, great-grandson of the pioneer, is now operating the homestead. The family has numerous representatives, many in the region of the original settlement, others elsewhere, and all fine citizens. Dr. Clarence Coulter was a prominent physician in Oil City for a number of years.

The Ghosts are another family creditably represented from pioneer times to the present. Maj. Philip Ghost, a native of Germany and a veteran of the Revolutionary war, came here from Westmoreland county in 1796 and located upon the farm acquired in time by his descendant Ghost Hoffman. By his marriage to Barbara Kelt, of Lancaster county, Pa., Major Ghost had a family of eight children, among whom was Craft Ghost, born in Westmoreland county. He was a miller and followed that calling, building the second mill in the township, at the point where the road from Clintonville to Mercer crosses Scrubgrass creek. In his later life he engaged in farming. Being a man of comparatively good education, he also taught school in the early days. P. E. Ghost is now a prosperous farmer in Clinton township.

John Witherup was probably the only native of England among the pioneers of the Scrubgrass region, where he settled in 1800, at the mouth of Scrubgrass creek. There he built the first gristmill in the township, and in

addition to milling carried on farming and lumbering. He was the first sheriff of Venango county, and also served a number of years as justice of the peace. Before coming here he had lived in New Jersey, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and frequently made journeys between the two cities as a wagoner, transporting freight across the mountains. While in Pittsburgh he was also interested in the lumber business, in which connection he had a contract to furnish building materials for the first courthouse in Allegheny county, for which he hewed the first stick of timber placed in position. He married Mary Brockington, also a native of England, and it was their son Capt. Abraham Witherup who led a local company to the defense of Erie during the war of 1812. The pioneer died in 1843, and his numerous posterity is fully mentioned in the biographical section of this work.

John Hovis was the progenitor of another family still numerously represented in this section. He was of German extraction, his father, John Theodore Hofius, having been born in Prussia, and died in Mercer county, Pa. John Hovis settled in Clinton township on land later owned by David Hovis, and was one of the early constables of the township. He married Susanna Cogan, of Bedford county, and had a family of eleven children. This is one of the most numerously represented family names in the county, twenty-eight of the names appearing on one page of the county directory, most of them belonging to Clinton and Irwin townships.

According to family tradition, Alexander Porter came to Clinton in 1798, when it was very sparsely settled, locating upon land which passed into the possession of his grandsons Samuel and Thomas Porter. His father was a pioneer in Washington county, Pa. Alexander Porter was the first blacksmith in this vicinity, and the difficulties under which he performed work at his trade were typical of the privations endured by all the pioneers. An iron wedge driven into a stump served for an anvil, a piece of an old axe was used for hammering, and the bark of trees had to answer for fuel; iron was brought from the furnaces of Huntingdon county on packhorses.

James Hoffman, who came here in 1797, was born in 1773 of German parentage, and removed to Venango county from Westmoreland, making his first improvements on land later owned by Andrew Hoffman. By trade he was a wagonmaker. He married Mary Ghost, daughter of Maj. Philip Ghost, and they had a large family.

John McClaran, an early school teacher and magistrate of Clinton township, was born in Westmoreland county. He first lived in Irwin township after his removal to this county, in about 1800 settling in Clinton, where he settled on the tract later occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Mary Major. He married Martha Davison and had six children.

Benjamin Williams arrived here with his large family from Northumberland county in 1803, and was one of the first residents along the river above the mouth of Scrubgrass creek. He remained here until his death, which occurred on his seventieth birthday.

*Early Industries.*—Taking wheat from Clinton township to Westmoreland county to have it ground was one of the features of farm life in the early days. Besides the mills already mentioned, James Hughes had a mill below Kennerdell, and at that location opened the first store in the township in 1820. About 1834 James Perry built what was afterward known as the Crawford mill. John Phipps had a tannery at an early date where William Daugherty later lived, and Jacob Sowash also followed that business, a mile and a half from Clintonville. At an early date Philip Surrena built a sawmill with an old-fashioned upright saw on his home place in what is now Clinton township, and it was in operation until about 1875, his son John running it after his father gave up active work. The leading business men of their day were David Phipps of Kennerdell and William Cross at Janesville. Their labors are recounted in the stories of those towns.

*Organization.*—Clinton township was organized in 1855. On Jan. 28, 1854, upon petition of citizens of Scrubgrass and Irwin townships, John Adams, J. D. McWilliams and C. Heydrick were appointed commissioners to prepare a draft of a proposed new township to be erected from the adjoining portions of those townships, and report upon the advisability of such erection. A remonstrance thereto was filed at the following term of court, and at October sessions the report submitted by the commissioners was set aside. The same commissioners were reappointed at the December term, but having made no report the court appointed C. Heydrick, Matthew L. Whann and John McElphatine in their stead at January sessions, 1855. At April sessions that year they filed a report, with a plat of the new township, which was approved by the court and the organization forthwith ordered. The first election was held at the houses of Robert Cross and Thomas Hoge, with David Phipps

as judge, and William Atwell and Richard Surrena officiating as inspectors.

*Population.*—In 1870 the population of Clinton township had grown to 901; 1880, 1,752; 1890, 835; 1900, 916; 1910, 1,046.

*Clintonville*, a prosperous borough for the last forty years, is the business center of Clinton township and of the southwestern part of the county. It occupies an elevated location in the south central part of the township, in the midst of a fine agricultural region, and with a bank and a number of substantial business houses compares favorably from the commercial standpoint with any of the towns of the county. John Atwell, a gunsmith and blacksmith, built the first house in the town, at what is now the corner of Emlenton and Butler streets, and had a blacksmith shop on the opposite side of Franklin street. William Cross and James Perry opened the first store, in 1833, in a frame building at the corner of Franklin and Mercer streets, Mr. Perry's family living there and being in charge. They were the second family in the village. The third house, erected in 1835, was the "Lumberman's Eddy," a large log building on Butler street where Andrew Irwin kept hotel. What is now the corner of Franklin and Emlenton streets was then covered with a fine growth of timber. Considerable travel to and from Pittsburgh came this way over the "graded road," which passed through the town, so known in distinction from the pike, which it met near Harrisville in Butler county. It is said that this road was preferred to the pike by lumbermen returning from Pittsburgh. On the journey down their feet became so tender from being constantly in the water that it was impossible for them to wear shoes, and it was no uncommon sight for them to walk into the "Eddy" with stockings torn and feet bleeding. Indians from the Cornplanter reservation also came to this hotel occasionally.

A post office was established at this point in 1838, with Robert Cross as postmaster, and by 1843 the place had reached the proportions of a modest village. William Cross had meantime enlarged the house previously occupied by Perry, making it 59 feet long, and it was subsequently incorporated into the "Clinton Hotel" building. Cross lived in the rear, and had a large general store adjoining the portion of the house in which he resided, while Charles Lacy Cochran kept hotel in that part on the corner of Franklin and Mercer streets. William Weakley, a hatter, lived in the frame house above the Cross store. John Atwell had been succeeded by James Canan, gun-

smith and tinker. On the west side of Butler street, where the brick building owned by Maj. R. J. Phipps was later erected, there was a frame house owned by Robert Campbell and occupied by Jackson McMillan, the first physician to locate here. Some distance farther down, on the same side of the street, Robert Cross lived in a frame house, and James McKinley had built a small frame dwelling on the north side of Mercer street for his maiden sister. There were two churches, Methodist and Presbyterian.

The merchants here before 1850 were William and Robert Cross, James Perry, William Russell, Joseph Aiken and Thomas McKee. Robert Cross, previously mentioned as the first postmaster, kept store in Clintonville nearly forty years, dying in 1874, and Thomas J. McKee was engaged in merchandising at the same location for over forty years, establishing himself in that business in 1846. At the present writing, several well stocked general stores, and other enterprises in special lines of trade, draw a large patronage from the surrounding territory as well as from the inhabitants of the borough.

The following buildings occupied the town site in 1866: On Franklin street, the residences of Thomas McKee, Dr. James Foster, A. F. Hollister, Squire John Hovis and John Shaffer; S. Thorn's hotel and barn, and a large stable built by William Phipps. Dr. J. B. McMillan lived at the corner of Emlenton and Butler streets, and the only other buildings on the east side of Butler were the house and blacksmith shop of John F. Hovis. On the west side, at the corner of Mercer street, stood an abandoned storehouse, and adjoining it on the south was the store building of Judge Robert Cross, the first brick building in the town. The only residents on this street were Judge Cross and A. D. Williams, shoemaker. Another shoemaker, Joseph Kinder, lived in what was afterward used as the Methodist parsonage, on Mercer street, and on that street also lived E. P. Newton, George McKinley (blacksmith) and Samuel Foreman (shoemaker). There were three church buildings, as now, and Jane's Union Academy was in the midst of its usefulness. Telegraphic communication was established here in 1873.

On Jan. 28, 1878, Clintonville was incorporated as a borough, by decree of court, and its organization was ordered to take place on the third Tuesday in April following. J. G. Calvert was appointed to act as judge at this election, with Eli Hovis and Eli Vanderlin as inspectors, and the first borough officials chosen

were: J. H. Kelley, burgess; W. C. Cross, J. C. Nutt, J. B. McMillan, T. J. Robinson, A. D. Crone, Edwin Heath, members of council.

The following have officiated since 1900 (there were no elections in 1912, 1914 and 1916, owing to legislative changes, the officials holding over those years, and the first election under the act of 1915 was held in 1917, at the same time as the general elections in November):

1900-01-02—Burgess, C. W. Davis; Councilmen, 1900—William Thorn, J. W. McKee, G. A. Ramsay, G. W. Shaffer, J. H. Thompson; 1901—F. J. Sloan, R. A. McKee, J. W. Brocks; 1902—W. N. Thorn, J. M. McKee, C. M. Riddle.

1903—Burgess, R. A. Hutchinson; Councilmen, John Ford, E. W. Eakin, W. N. Thorn.

1904—Burgess, S. B. Braden; Councilmen, G. W. Shaffer, W. G. Coulson.

1905—Burgess, W. G. Coulson; Councilmen, J. C. Matt, Lester Hovis, Lester Cross.

1906-07—Burgess, J. M. McKee; Councilmen, 1906—C. E. Imbrie, J. A. McKee; 1907—Harry Hawkins, R. A. McKee.

1908—Burgess, R. A. Hutchinson; Councilmen, H. N. Kelly, A. E. Sloan.

1909-10-11—Burgess, R. A. Hutchinson; Councilmen, 1909—George Eakin, C. E. Imbrie; 1910—J. M. McKee, Harry Hawkins, R. A. McKee; 1911—H. N. Kelly, A. E. Sloan.

1913-15—Burgess, W. S. McKee; 1913—E. W. Eakin, H. N. Kelly, J. A. McKinley, James McQuiston; 1915—W. J. Atwell, G. A. Blair, J. M. McQuiston, J. F. Hovis, R. D. Price, Carl Smith.

1917—Burgess, C. L. Irvin (four years); Councilmen—W. J. Hovis (four years), John E. Williams (four years).

The population of Clintonville was notably larger during the Bullion oil excitement, and has not increased since, in fact, two census returns show a considerable falling off. In 1880 it was 339; 1890, 253; 1900, 262; 1910, 335. Clintonville has no railroad, but it is growing both in wealth and population. The location of the town is very beautiful, situated upon an eminence overlooking the surrounding country.

*Summit City*, at one time a place of a thousand inhabitants, has left few reminders of its existence except the name of its post office, *Bullion*, by which the location is still known, with one general mercantile store to cater to the needs of the local residents. The site was originally the farm of S. Simcox, three miles southwest of Kennerdell, and the town flourished during the excitement incident to early

developments in the Bullion oil field. The first house was built Dec. 8, 1876, and by the next June there were one hundred and eighty buildings and a population of about one thousand, with banks, hotels and all kinds of stores, and the usual features of an incipient oil town. As the excitement died down the people went elsewhere, and the town was deserted within a few years. The last inhabitant, Abram Myers, left in April, 1889. The general store is now operated by C. W. Irwin.

*Phipps' Mills* stood on Big Scrubgrass creek, a mile above Kennerdell, and was an active place for about a quarter of a century. In 1824 John Anderson built the first furnace in the township at this location. He came from Juniata county and was an experienced iron-master, doing well in his venture. Ore was obtained from the surrounding hills, and the neighboring forests furnished charcoal. In 1835 he sold the property to David Phipps, who carried on the furnace some years longer, manufacturing metal for the Pittsburgh market, and stoves, pots, pans, kettles, etc., for the local trade. A village containing a score or more of houses and a large store sprang up around the industry, an old file of 1835 showing that Phipps & Clapps were associated in the operation of the iron business, with forty employes. David Phipps also acted as postmaster. He banked the furnace in 1847-48.

*Kennerdell* was established at a romantic spot in the valley of the Scrubgrass, two miles from the station of the same name on the Pennsylvania (formerly the Allegheny Valley) railroad. It has been an active milling center from an early period in the history of the township. In 1812 David Phipps built a gristmill on the south side of the creek, a log structure with crude machinery, but a great convenience to the local inhabitants and a profitable enterprise for the proprietor, who also had a sawmill farther down the creek. A modern mill eventually replaced the primitive gristmill. Mr. Phipps also built a woolen factory furnished with carding and spinning machines, looms, and all the other appliances necessary for the production of flannels, cloths, blankets, shawls, carpets, etc., with a fulling mill, dye house and oil mill in connection. It was an extensive plant for the time and place, the most important ever attempted along the Scrubgrass, and the transportation of the machinery from Philadelphia by wagon involved great expense and labor. The operatives were principally from England. The whole establishment was destroyed by fire one night, and

Mr. Phipps never fully recovered from the financial loss sustained.

Richard Kennerdell, a native of Lancashire, England, born March 19, 1817, came to America when nine years old and passed his boyhood in Philadelphia. In 1837 he removed to Pittsburgh, and thence in the same year to Armstrong county, Pa., where he remained seven years, in 1844 locating at Agnew's Mills, in Richland township, Venango county. In 1853 he bought the mill property above mentioned, at the village that has since borne his name, built a large woolen mill, and continued business there until his death. Operations at the mills ceased over thirty years ago. The old Kennerdell property is now owned by J. L. Eakin.

About 1823 William Cassidy, a native of Westmoreland county, came to Scrubgrass and went to work in the Phipps Mills. In 1828 he removed to a location in what is now Clinton township, building a pottery on land later owned by S. Simcox where for a number of years red ware for domestic purposes was manufactured.

For several years a unique enterprise promised success, but was not kept up. The *morus nigra*, a species of the mulberry tree, being native to the soil here and abundant, suggested the possibility of silk culture, and a man named Waite planted an orchard of the *morus alba*, not far from the place occupied by Alexander Witherup's heirs, but the project was abandoned before any great results were attained.

Janesstown was established by William Cross and named in honor of his wife, whose maiden name was Jane Weakley. Mr. Cross moved to Franklin from his old home in Centerville, Butler county, in 1831, and became one of the wealthy business men of the county during the prosperity of the iron industry. Within twenty years he had placed six furnaces in operation in the county, two of them in Clinton township. When he came to Clintonville, in 1835, the region was heavily timbered and there were ore deposits accessible at comparatively slight expense, while the water power of Scrubgrass creek was practically all at his disposal. The mill built by Craft Ghost, on its west branch, was still in operation, and Mr. Cross purchased the establishment together with several hundred acres of land. In 1837 he built a frame mill, with two sets of buhrs, a mile west of Clintonville, where the Mercer road crosses Scrubgrass creek, building a race to the dam at Ghost's mill, a mile and a half distant. It was a marvel of engineering skill for the period. Being cut through

a wild and rocky region, the channel was made at great labor and expense in many places, and when completed provided a fall of fifty feet, sufficient to furnish motive power for a gristmill, sawmill, foundry, carding mill and blast furnace. The foundry stood on the north side of the road, and here hollow-ware, plows, potash kettles, stoves and similar goods were turned out, finding a ready sale in the surrounding territory. In 1840, farther down the creek, a carding mill was built with two machines, which prepared wool for domestic manufacture. A little later a tannery was built on the east side of the creek, and a furniture factory, blacksmith shop and tailor shop were added to the conveniences at this settlement. Patrick Thornbury and William Baird were in charge of the foundry; James and Andrew Russell were engaged as cabinetmakers; Isaac Miles, as tanner; William Atwell, as blacksmith; George Jack, as tailor; and James Weakley had charge of the carding mill.

The construction of Jane Furnace was started in 1840, and it was first put in blast Nov. 7, 1842. It was built of stone, and had a cupola thirty-five feet high, with a bosh diameter of seven feet. As in all furnaces of the time, the cold blast was used, and charcoal was employed for fuel, a fact which brought charcoal burning into the list of important local activities. Wood choppers received from forty to fifty cents per cord, and colliers from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per hundred bushels, after deducting the cost of the wood. The cost of ore ranged from \$2.50 to \$3.25 per ton, the best limestone ore coming from the Buchanan bank in Butler county, ten miles away. The metal was hauled to the mouth of Scrubgrass at a cost of \$1.50 to \$2.00 per ton and shipped to Pittsburgh by flatboat at a freight charge of a dollar per ton. The wages of furnace operatives ranged from sixteen to forty dollars per month, and there were about fifteen houses in the vicinity to accommodate the workmen. The tannery, foundry, and other establishments gradually fell into disuse, and at last the furnace blew out in 1859, while nothing now remains to mark the site of this once prosperous settlement. The course of the old millrace may still be traced, however, and the remains of the old mill are standing.

William Cross also owned the Bullion Furnace, built a little earlier than the one at Janesstown, and of about the same size and capacity. It stood on Bullion run, a mile and a half from the mouth of Scrubgrass. Mr. Cross owning fourteen hundred acres of land in that vicinity. Here a store and houses enough to accommo-

date thirty operatives made quite an active community, which dwindled to nothing after the furnace was banked, in 1859.

*Beringer City*, a village established on the George Beringer farm, during the oil excitement in 1877, grew within six months to a place of one hundred and ninety-five houses, from February to July of that year. Various kinds of business houses were opened and the place prospered for a year or so, but declined rapidly, and within a decade was reduced to a few houses and a single store. It is not on any map now. The post office at Summit City supplied this place and Dean City.

#### OIL CREEK TOWNSHIP

The first movement in the direction of separate organization for this territory was made at August sessions, 1859, when a petition from citizens of the northern part of Cornplanter and western part of Allegheny was presented for the consideration of the court. On the 10th of January, 1860, the question was submitted to a vote of the citizens of Allegheny township, with the result that out of the 216 votes cast at the election there was a majority of 56 against the proposed innovation. In January, 1866, the matter again became a sub-



BULLION RUN FURNACE STACK

*Dean City* had a location adjoining Beringer, on the McCalmont farm. After the first impetus subsided, its only activities were those kept up by the employes at the wells, and it has passed entirely out of existence.

Clinton township is one of the best in Venango county, or in any other county. It still has untold wealth in its soil, and hundreds of feet below the surface. It is still rich in oil, gas and coal, but its greatest wealth is in its soil, which will never be exhausted. The richest soils in the world are those that have been cultivated longest, some of them more than two thousand years, and getting better. The soil will never be spoiled or become unfruitful while the sun shines and the rains fall, and man treats it intelligently.

ject of judicial consideration. S. Thomas, Samuel F. Dale and T. H. Martin were appointed viewers, and reported in favor of the division of Allegheny by a line "Beginning at the southeast corner of lot No. 124, thence by line dividing said lot from No. 163 north by the original lines of the tracts and by the east line of the borough of Pleasantville to the Warren county line," which was confirmed *nisi Aug. 30, 1866*. There is no record of the final proceedings in this case, but the formal erection of Oil Creek probably occurred at the following term of court.

*Settlement*.—The Flemings were probably the first permanent settlers in the township, having established a residence here in 1796. In 1795 Andrew and Daniel Fleming made a

visit to this section of the country from their home near Redstone Old Fort, Fayette county, where their father, a native of England, was among the first settlers. He had come to America before the Revolution, served during the war as a commissary in the Continental army, and died in Fayette county leaving a family of grown sons. The brothers returned to Venango county in 1796, Andrew securing 400 acres of land, and their mother, Mrs. Sarah Fleming, followed them hither in 1798 with four more brothers, Samuel, James, Ezekiel and Edward. The family has been well represented in this section down to the present time. Andrew married Ann McClintock, sister to Francis and Hamilton McClintock, and had three sons and three daughters. Daniel married Nancy Harding, of Harrisville, Butler county, and died in Forest county. Samuel bought land six miles south of Titusville, on the hill east of Oil creek, the claim of Jacob Richards, who had cleared several acres of land and planted a small orchard, subsequently removing to Gallipolis, Ohio. Samuel married Jane McClintock, daughter of Hamilton McClintock, and reared eleven children. The other brothers also located here.

In the summer of 1799 a settlement was made by Samuel Gregg, from Center county, in the vicinity of Pioneer station, in the extreme southwestern part of the township. He was a native of Ireland.

Another of the early settlers was James Miller, in whose honor Miller Farm station, on the western edge of the township, was named. It was once a flourishing oil town, and the post office of Meredith was established there.

James Shreve, who came from the same locality in Fayette county as the Flemings, bought the improvements of Abraham Sowers near the Titusville and Oil City road. Previous to his removal into this locality he had lived in Ohio for a time, and while there joined the Christian Church.

John Lytle, who came to the township in 1812 and settled what is known as the Mill farm on West Pithole creek, was a native of Ireland.

William Poor settled here in 1818; he had removed from Massachusetts to Crawford county, Pa., the year previously. Other pioneers were William Broadfoot, David Henderson, William McCaslin and Robert Watson.

*Population.*—In common with other oil regions, the township has experienced many fluctuations of population due to activities in the local fields. When the productiveness of this region as oil territory became apparent many

of the older families left, few remaining, and much interesting history regarding early conditions in the township was thus lost. The oil operations carried on in the sixties accounted for great accessions to the population, which in 1870 is recorded as 5,098; in 1880 the number had fallen to 526; in 1890 it was 852; 1900, 623; 1910, 577.

The first road through the township led from the Hickory flats in Forest county to Franklin, passing a mile south of Pleasantville, crossing Oil creek at the Fleming mill, and continuing through Cherrytree village to Coopers-town before turning south to the county seat. The Brokenstraw road entered this county at a point south of Enterprise, Warren county, and met the Warren and Franklin road at Rynd Farm; the principal part of its course has been abandoned.

*Early Industries.*—The first mill in Oil Creek township, and the first on Oil creek, was built by Andrew Fleming, and the original machinery, which included two runs of native stone and a waterwheel of primitive but ingenious construction, was principally of his own contriving. When the trade had increased sufficiently with the growth of population to warrant it, improved appliances were brought from Pittsburgh, and a sawmill was added to the equipment.

Before 1800 the Holland Company built a mill on Pine run, the east branch of Oil creek, which was patronized from this vicinity until local facilities were provided. Both have now "passed," like King Arthur.

At an early date John Lytle built a sawmill on West Pithole creek, where waterpower was furnished by a large pond. Many years afterward the timbers were used in the construction of a barn.

*Pleasantville* borough, in view of its desirable location and many other attractions as a place of residence, was appropriately named. Abraham Lovell made the first improvement on the site, which lies in the northeastern part of Venango county, six miles from Titusville, this being the southern terminus of the Titusville Traction Company, operated between Pleasantville and Tryonville, Crawford county. The altitude above the level of Oil creek is six hundred feet at this point.

Mr. Lovell had visited various localities in northwestern Pennsylvania on his return from service in the war of 1812, for which he had been drafted at his old home nine miles from Ithaca, N. Y. The abundance of spring water in this vicinity influenced him in making his choice, and here he brought his family about

1820, in a covered wagon which continued to provide them with shelter until a permanent dwelling could be erected. Their land adjoined the graveyard on the west. The family was characterized by remarkable longevity. Abraham Lovell was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and rigidly Calvinistic in faith and practice.

It was Aaron Benedict who named the place and to whose enterprise its early prosperity was due. He was a native of West Stockbridge, Mass., born Feb. 17, 1779, of English parentage, and as a young man settled in New York State, where he acquired substantial business interests. During the war of 1812 he was the proprietor of flouring mills between Cortland and Homer, in Cortland county, becoming quite wealthy, and at the close of the war he engaged in mercantile pursuits at Fabius, Onondaga county, at which place he was a leader in business and social activities. He built a Baptist Church, and was prominent generally in enterprises designed to promote the public good. When the Susquehanna and Waterford turnpike was constructed, in 1818-19, he took a contract to do a considerable part of the work. His own operations were profitable, but heavy losses occasioned by the failure of others, with whom he was associated, made it necessary for him to sacrifice his property in order to meet his obligations, and the results of years of successful labor were swept away. Having formed the acquaintance of Mr. Huidekoper, of Meadville, agent for the Holland Land Company, and having also gained some knowledge of this section while carrying out his contract in the construction of the turnpike, he saw an opportunity to retrieve his fortunes by venturing into the new region, and made a settlement in the spring of 1821 on a tract of 400 acres which he had secured, embracing the site of Pleasantville. His son, Aaron, Jr., had come out the previous year and sowed a field of wheat, which helped to provide the family with food until they could make a start at the new home. In the summer of 1821 Peter Vhreum, a stonemason of Meadville, built a stone house for the Benedicts on the east side of what is now known as Main street, which was for many years one of the most substantial and commodious residences in the county. It cost one thousand and sixty dollars. There was a fine spring at the side of the house then, but like many others it disappeared after oil operations were begun. Mr. Benedict became agent for the survey and sale of the Holland lands, and an influential member of the community, holding various local

offices, including that of justice of the peace for many years. He was originally a Whig in politics, later a Republican. Though he had nineteen children, he was represented by comparatively few descendants in the locality.

Austin Merrick, who arrived shortly after Aaron Benedict, like him came from New York State, was a Baptist in religion and a Whig in politics. He lived on Main street near the Baptist Church, and seems to have been variously occupied, having taught the first school in the village and acted as the first postmaster at Holland post office, besides farming to some extent. He moved to Corry when the oil excitement began. Mr. Merrick was married four times. Merrick street was named for him.

William Porter was a son-in-law of Aaron Benedict, who induced him to come to Pleasantville. He removed here from Rochester, N. Y., where he had been following his trade of potter, and established himself in that line at his new location, his pottery being situated originally on the west side of Main street, opposite the Benedict home, but later removed to the other side of the street, below the opera house. Mr. Porter first lived in a hewed-log house which stood on a lot later owned by Dr. John Wilson.

In 1831 E. R. Beebe, a nephew of Aaron Benedict, located here at the solicitation of his uncle and immediately started a tannery on State street, one of the most important industries of the place in its pioneer period. The equipment included vats and a bark mill, and the establishment was well patronized. The original proprietor lived to an advanced age. After he gave up the business it was conducted by John Brown, William Dawson and others, in turn, until discontinued many years ago.

John Brown, the first merchant at Pleasantville, came here in 1833 from New York City, where he had engaged in business several years after his arrival from his native country, Scotland. He had his first home and store on State street, at the crossing of the run, and was remarkably successful in business, as his descendants have been down to the present. He was a man of strong religious tendencies, and was largely interested in building and sustaining the Covenanter Church at Pleasantville, as he was in other beneficial enterprises.

As the location of a pottery, tannery, post office and popular general store, Pleasantville acquired considerable local prestige, but its growth was not rapid, and the only important addition to its business institutions in years was the ashery established in the forties, where

saleratus was produced. Ebenezer Sanford was one of the proprietors of this plant. The discovery of oil, however, brought about an immediate expansion of general business interests and a rapid increase in population. The first productive well in this vicinity was drilled in 1865 on the Porter farm. Land was in great demand at once, and within a short time the village was thronged with strangers seeking profitable opportunities for investment. Buildings of all kinds were erected without delay, for hotel, store and bank accommodations, as well as all the other wants of business and habitation. A railroad bed was graded from Pithole City, and with the prospect of good transportation facilities, added to the natural healthfulness of its location, Pleasantville seemed in a fair way to become one of the larger towns of the oil country. But with the decline of production those who had no interests here except in oil gradually withdrew to new fields, the railroad was abandoned, and the life of the town resumed its normal course. However, oil operations took on new life in the eighties, giving business a new impetus, and there are a number of profitable leases under exploitation in the vicinity. Manufacturing has never had any important part in the development of the place. The Eagle iron and mill works established in 1868 by J. Locke & Son, on State street, were removed in 1876, to Grant street, where flour and lumber mills were erected and the manufacture of oil well machinery, wagons, etc., carried on until the early eighties. House & Kelly also had a wagon shop for some time. S. H. Wallace & Company and Frederick Propheter engaged in the building of tanks. The business element now consists largely of oil producers and drillers, together with dealers in oil well supplies, besides the merchants who supply the borough and surrounding territory.

Three rural free delivery routes are operated from the Pleasantville post office.

Though there are now no banks at Pleasantville several have been successfully conducted there. The first was established in 1868 by D. H. Mitchell and Samuel Q. Brown, under the firm name of Mitchell & Brown, Mr. Mitchell retiring in 1871 in favor of Richard Irwin, when the style became Brown & Irwin. This house was superseded by the Pleasantville Banking Company, organized in December, 1872, of which Mr. Brown became president, filling that position for thirty years, until the bank passed out of existence. At the time of the organization John Wilson became vice president, and Richard Irwin, cashier. The

capital was one hundred thousand dollars. In 1879 Mr. Irwin was succeeded by D. W. Henderson.

The Citizens' Bank was organized Dec. 21, 1872, with the election of the following officers: James Connely, president; F. Merrick, cashier; H. M. Haskell, D. W. Henderson, Otto Girmer, James Skinner, James Connely, M. C. Beebe, William Newkirk, A. Holeman and Theodore Marlin, directors. This institution discontinued business about 1885.

On Dec. 23, 1871, the town was visited by a disastrous fire which originated in the "New York Hotel" on South Main street, destroying thousands of dollars worth of buildings and merchandise. Indirectly it effected some improvement, as it resulted in the erection of commodious and substantial brick buildings at Main and State streets.

It is rather remarkable that no attempt was ever made at subdividing Pleasantville regularly into streets and lots. New arrivals usually bought as much land as they could, and the place developed decidedly as a rural village. It was incorporated as a borough March 22, 1850, by act of the legislature, the second in the county. The act of incorporation appointed Aaron Benedict, Wilson Dawson and M. C. Beebe commissioners to survey, define and mark the boundaries, including nearly a square mile of territory. The burgesses and members of the council have been as follows:

1850: William Porter, burgess; A. Merrick, A. Dawson, J. W. Henderson, J. W. Parker, council.

1852: Aaron Benedict, burgess; D. H. Parker, Austin Merrick, council.

1853: M. C. Beebe, burgess; William Dodge, E. R. Beebe, council.

1854: M. C. Beebe, burgess; Austin Merrick, William House, council.

1857: John Brown, burgess; A. Dawson, Abraham Lovell, Sr., council.

1858: John W. Henderson, burgess; C. House, D. W. Henderson, council.

1859: John Kelly, burgess; D. H. Parker, George Porter, council.

1860: Edward Byles, burgess; Samuel Hatch, D. Marvin, council.

1861: Marshall Corbin, burgess; D. H. Parker, George Porter, council.

1866: J. C. Benedict, burgess; D. W. Henderson, William Newkirk, council.

1867: J. C. Benedict, burgess; M. C. Benedict, J. A. Dunham, council.

1868: M. C. Beebe, burgess; J. J. Watkins, G. S. Nettleton, council.

1869: M. C. Beebe, burgess; D. W. Hen-

derson, William Newkirk, Samuel Q. Brown, E. S. Nettleton, council.

1869: (October) John F. Carll, burgess; William Newkirk, Roger Sherman, Henry T. Dunham, Marshall Goss, Myron P. Barber, council.

1870: J. F. Carll, burgess; E. L. Keenan, M. C. Benedict, A. K. McMullen, J. C. Goal, Casper Schott, council.

1872: (March) H. M. Haskell, burgess; W. F. House, S. A. Barnes, Charles Gardner, William Newkirk, R. L. Irwin, T. A. Morrison, council.

1873: T. A. Morrison, burgess; A. Holeman, F. Merrick, G. E. Mapes, R. L. Irwin, S. A. Barnes, C. Schott, council.

1874: Thomas Chattele, burgess; Samuel Harsh, John Nichols, Henry Wege, W. F. House, A. W. Brown, L. T. Benedict, council.

1875: Thomas Chattele, burgess; Samuel Harsh, C. Netcher, Henry Wege, W. F. House, A. W. Brown, L. L. Benedict, council.

1876: Thomas Chattele, burgess; L. L. Benedict, W. F. House, A. W. Brown, Samuel Harsh, E. B. Seymour, council.

1877: L. L. Benedict, burgess; Thomas Chattele, G. K. Thayer, H. H. Noyes, J. C. Goal, John Holeman, John A. Johnson, council.

1878: Thomas Chattele, burgess; J. L. Connely, U. G. Mease, J. D. Holeman, H. H. Noyes, J. R. Amsdell, J. B. Skinner, council.

1879: Benjamin Corwin, burgess; A. W. Brown, J. Kuhlmeyer, H. Wege, J. D. Holeman, D. W. Henderson, H. H. Noyes, council.

1880: T. C. Gould, burgess; W. E. Banks, William Newkirk, J. B. Skinner, Frederick Henn, C. Henry Newkirk, H. H. Locke, council.

1881: M. C. Beebe, burgess; W. E. Banks, J. B. Skinner, C. Henry Newkirk, H. H. Noyes, Samuel Chestnut, Casper Schott, council.

1882: M. C. Beebe, burgess; H. H. Noyes, R. M. Davidson, H. H. Locke, Henry Wege, Casper Schott, H. J. Hopkins, council.

1883: M. C. Beebe, burgess; James Rooker, H. H. Locke, H. J. Hopkins, W. W. Pennell, H. Wege, R. M. Davidson, council.

1884: M. C. Beebe, burgess; H. Wege, Benjamin Corwin, R. M. Davidson, George Howarth, John Holeman, A. Holeman, council.

1885: M. C. Beebe, burgess; John Holeman, James Rooker, council.

1886: Isaac Doolittle, burgess; R. M. Davidson, R. J. Hopkins, council.

1887: J. R. Amsdell, burgess; H. Wege, Benjamin Corwin, council.

1888: W. F. House, burgess; John Lockwood, Casper Schott, council.

1889: W. F. House, burgess; H. H. Noyes, R. D. Stoeltzing, council. Mr. House resigned before the completion of his term, and Mr. Stoeltzing filled it out.

Since 1900 the following have been elected:

1900-01-02—Burgess, W. J. Proper; Councilmen, 1900—F. Prophester, H. Wege, George P. Herbert, S. Q. Wilson, James Preston; 1901—A. J. Hotchkiss (one year), Lyman Gillett (one year), W. D. Beebe (three years), N. R. Wilbur (three years); 1902—A. J. Hotchkiss, George West, Fred Burgwald.

1903-04-05—Burgess, Benjamin Corwin; Councilmen, 1903—S. W. Refenberg, H. H. Haskell; 1904—N. A. Shelmadine, D. K. Beason, Thomas McGuire; 1905—Henry Wege, N. A. Shelmadine, A. J. Hotchkiss.

1906-07-08—Burgess, H. Harrison Haskell; Councilmen, 1906—E. D. House, C. O. Parker, George L. Shaw; 1907—John A. Reed, W. J. Byers, N. A. Stowell; 1908—H. C. Zeamer, J. L. Wilbur, R. M. Davidson.

1909-10-11—Burgess, S. Q. Wilson; Councilmen, 1909—H. H. Haskell, George L. Shaw; 1910—W. J. Byers, Ed. Skinner, W. A. Stowell; 1911—H. H. Haskell, James L. Miller, H. C. Zeamer.

No borough elections in 1912, 1914 and 1916, owing to legislative changes, officials holding over those years. The first election under the act of 1915 was held in 1917, at the same time as the general elections in November.

1913-15—Burgess, E. D. House; Councilmen, 1913—F. M. Haskell, Arthur Hotchkiss, S. Q. Wilson; 1915—George West (four years), H. E. Prynes (four years), W. J. Arnold (two years).

1917—Burgess, John Dack (four years); Councilmen, A. E. Burrows (four years), Frank Williams (four years), H. H. Haskell (four years), Fred White (two years).

In 1870 the borough had a population of 1,598; 1880, 835; 1890, 928; 1900, 671; 1910, 702.

*Shamburg*, so named in honor of George Shamburg, local superintendent for the Philadelphia & Cherry Run Oil Company, came into existence with the inauguration of oil operations at that point in 1865, and by 1870 a considerable percentage of the five thousand inhabitants of the township were living at this irregular and undefined settlement. Mr. Shamburg applied for the establishment of a post office as a matter of personal convenience and it received his name. The town had the varied population and typical characteristics of oil communities of the period, and the same history as the average. The population had

dropped to 484 by 1880, and little is now left to mark the location of a once busy center of activity. The old post office of Middletown was superseded by Shamburg in 1893. The residents of the vicinity now receive their mail by rural free delivery from Pleasantville.

Two dwellings mark the site of *East Shamburg*, and Shamburg on the "four corners" has three houses in sight. There is still considerable production in the vicinity of the two Shamburgs, as is the case over the township; but the fields are defined, and locations for new wells are not for sale or lease just now. The field is not exhausted by any means.

#### MINERAL TOWNSHIP

A petition for the creation of a new township, from portions of Sandy Creek and French Creek, was presented to the court of Quarter Sessions Jan. 17, 1870. At an election in June the matter received popular sanction, and the township of Mineral was formally named Oct. 24, 1870. At the first election for township officers, held on the last Tuesday of November, Isaac Perrine was chosen justice of the peace, William Adams assessor, and James Simcox treasurer. Much the larger portion of the new township was taken from Sandy Creek. It adjoins Mercer county, extending from Irwin to French Creek township, with Victory as the eastern boundary. Sandy creek and South Sandy, with numerous smaller tributaries, drain the whole of its area. Although there are many fine farms in the township, much of its territory is not adapted to farming purposes.

**Settlement.**—The first permanent settlement in Mineral township was probably made by Samuel Gildersleeve, who came from New Jersey about 1797. At that time there were only a few families near the mouth of Sandy creek and French creek, while the road from Franklin to Mercer was little more than a bridle path. Panthers and wolves were frequently encountered in the woods, or made night attacks upon the domestic animals kept by the settlers, who lost many cattle and sheep in this way. Mr. Gildersleeve had a family of four children, but none of his posterity are now in the township.

William Whann, another pioneer settler, arrived here according to one account in 1800, but the probability is that it was several years earlier. He moved from Northumberland county and settled on South Sandy, on the farm later owned by Julius Henderson, but before the neighborhood had become well settled moved to New Athens, Harrison Co.,

Ohio, with all but two of his large family, five sons and five daughters. The sons who remained, Francis and Robert S. Whann, married here and lived to advanced age, the former dying when eighty-eight years old, the latter when seventy-five. Descendants are still residing in the township. (See Raymilton).

The Hendersons, another early family, were originally from Ireland, and for some time residents in Allegheny county, Pa. In 1796 five brothers made a location at Hendersonville, in the adjoining township of Worth, Mercer county, one of them, Archibald, moving into Mineral township a few years later. He was married in Ohio to Sarah Gates, a woman of more than average education and intelligence, who was one of the first school teachers here and had considerable reputation as a fine writer. Charles Henderson, another of the brothers who came here, was born in Ireland and came to Pennsylvania a single man, marrying a Miss Simcox, by whom he had nine children; their eldest child, Robert, succeeded to the home-stead property. One of the brothers kept hotel. The American troops from Pittsburgh on their way to Lake Erie during the war of 1812 stopped there, and if tradition is correct local customers at the house were obliged to do without the accustomed refreshments for a time in consequence.

Among other early arrivals were Shadrach Simcox, who came from Maryland, probably about 1800; Andrew Smith, who was from Washington county, and either accompanied the Whanns or came a little later; Daniel Crain, from New Jersey, who lived during his residence here at the place later owned by Mrs. Nancy Kilgore, removing eventually to Wooster, Ohio; and John Walker. Jacob Rice, who also made a location in the pioneer period, planted one of the first orchards in the township, carrying the trees on his back from Pittsburgh.

Of the early industrial efforts aside from agriculture, nothing remains excepting some ruins which might be traced by an antiquarian. The first mill in the township was built by Robert Latta, and stood on Sandy creek above Raymilton, where traces of the dam may probably still be found. It was never operated to any extent, and its suspension or disappearance does not appear to have interfered especially with the progress of civilization in this part of Sandy creek valley, but it is wrapped in mystery. According to one account, Latta died from exposure while under the influence of liquor, and the mill was burned in a forest fire.

But another story has it that the proprietor, finding his establishment somewhat in advance of the locality, left it for a time, and that during his absence the machinery was appropriated by someone else.

There were also mills in the early days on the South Sandy, built by Abel Thompson and subsequently owned by James Griffin, and at Raymilton.

Abraham Sampson established a pottery in the southern part of the township, some time after the pioneer period.

*Population.*—At the first census taken after the formation of the township, in 1880, there were 831 inhabitants; in 1890, 602; 1900, 574; 1910, 568.

*Raymilton*, the only town in Mineral township, situated in the Sandy creek valley, was named for its founder, A. W. Raymond, who began his extensive business operations there in 1844. He built a gristmill, iron furnace and store building, and made other improvements, retaining an active connection with interests here until after his removal to Franklin in 1858. The furnace was put in blast Feb. 3, 1845, and continued in operation until some time during the fifties, ranking in size with the larger establishments of the kind in the county. The ruins, still to be seen, indicate its substantial construction. There were other important industries in the vicinity. Some distance farther down the creek was Reno Furnace, the property of L. T. Reno of Franklin. Maple Grove coal bank, near by, was originally opened by John Soper and Young Brothers in 1861-62, and was operated successively by Captain Mason, C. B. Irwin, the Maple Grove Coal Company and S. P. McCalmont, but for many years mining has been carried on in a limited way only. There is no activity there now, but operations may be resumed if the gas fails. The first attempt at finding oil here was made by A. W. Raymond in 1861, and was abandoned after boring to a depth of four hundred feet with but slight indications. Nothing more in that line was done until 1870, when operations were again attempted, with better success, there being a steady increase in production from that time to about 1895. There is a fair production yet, which may be increased. There is a yield of a fine heavy oil around the village amounting to perhaps two hundred and fifty barrels a month, which is piped to receiving tanks at the station and sold to the Eclipse Refinery at Franklin, where it is converted into lubricating oil.

From 1873 to 1879 Raymilton was the railroad terminus of the United Pipe Lines' But-

ler county line, a circumstance which contributed largely to the business activity of the place during that period.

The town is on the line of the New York Central (formerly Lake Shore & Michigan Southern) railroad. Its present population is 105. For many years its business activities centered around the general store, the local branches of the two refining companies, the Cold Water Refining Company of Oil City and the Raymilton Oil Company, petroleum refiners, of Cleveland, Ohio, and two sawmills, both conducted by members of the Whann family. Both refining plants have been removed, the Cold Water having been sold about a year ago, after standing idle for a time, and removed to Butler county.

The village was the original location of the Globe or Raymilton Refining Company, first organized in November, 1878, by S. Simcox, W. M. Glenn, Raymond Brothers and Robert Eakin; it was reorganized in 1887 as the Globe Refining Company, Limited, with S. Simcox, president; J. C. Simcox, secretary and treasurer; C. D. Gaylord, manager. The distilling works operated previous to the reorganization were afterward augmented by a lubricating plant with a capacity of 115 barrels daily. The distilling equipment had a capacity of one thousand barrels per month. The plant was located near the railroad station. It was removed some years ago to Cleveland, Ohio. The general store of W. S. Hogue is now the only mercantile establishment. One rural free delivery route is operated from the post office.

#### VICTORY TOWNSHIP

Victory township was formally erected Sept. 6, 1876, and its organization forthwith ordered. It is one of the smallest subdivisions of the county. Bounded on the south by Clinton and Irwin townships, and on the west by Mineral, it is separated from Sandy Creek township by the stream of that name, and from Rockland by the Allegheny river, which runs all along its eastern border from the mouth of Sandy creek. The surface is very much broken. In the northern part, about the mouth of South Sandy, there is a wide region of sparsely inhabited territory.

*Pioneers.*—In spite of the fact that it is not so inviting as other parts of the county Victory was settled almost as early as the western frontier of Pennsylvania became a safe place of residence. Prominent among the first arrivals was John DeWoody. A native of the North of Ireland, he emigrated to America at

the age of twenty-two years, and lived for a time at Lancaster, Pa., whence he drifted westward. At Chartiers creek, near Pittsburgh, he met and married Anis McCullough, whose father had received land scrip to the amount of 400 acres in recognition of his services in the Revolution. He was a captain in the American army, raising a company in Dauphin county, Pa., and returning after seven years of military service with but seven of his men. He gave his daughter as her dower a horse and a cow. When they arrived in the valley of Sandy creek her husband, John DeWoody, disposed of these animals to Samuel Patterson, in settlement of his claim to a tract of 400 acres. Patterson was a young man, unmarried, and made his living principally by hunting. He had built a cabin, which stood in the orchard on this farm, and a large rock which formed the rear wall is still pointed out. DeWoody lived in this cabin for a time, and then built a more pretentious house, on the old Pittsburgh road, in which he kept hotel thirty-three years. The date of his settlement was 1796, and his daughter Sarah (afterward Mrs. Ford), born here in 1798, was the second white child born in the township. It is generally understood that the first was a child of Patrick Manson, afterward a pioneer of Sandy Creek township.

Daniel McMillin, the next permanent settler of whom anything definite is known, was of Scotch-Irish descent and a native of one of the eastern counties of Pennsylvania. His settlement here was made in 1802, upon a tract of 500 acres, for which he paid a dollar an acre, and part of which was in the possession of his son Daniel McMillin as late as 1890. His wife and two children came here with him, and all their belongings were carried on one horse. They lived in a tent until a log cabin with clapboard roof and puncheon floor could be constructed; it stood within a few rods of Daniel McMillin's house, and some of the foundation stones are still visible. The pioneer lived to an advanced age, dying in Rockland township, where he has since been represented by a numerous posterity.

George McClelland, a native of Ireland, made a settlement in 1803 near Springville, but in 1806 removed to Franklin, where he was best known, remaining there until his death in 1834. He married Agnes Seaton, who died in 1842, and their children were: Mrs. Jane Snowden, Mrs. Margaret Plumer, John, Mrs. Nancy Bredin, Mrs. Eliza Dale, George C. and Joseph.

A number of those who came to the town-

ship in the early days were but temporary residents, and little has been preserved concerning them. Robert Heiner made an improvement on the farm later owned by Dr. A. G. Egbert, and planted an orchard there which was still bearing in 1831 and then said to have been one of the best in the township. John Lyons settled on a tract of 400 acres, near what was later the home of R. C. Shorts. John Morrison, the pioneer court crier, lived at the mouth of Sandy creek. Samuel Lindsay, a veteran of the Revolution, who served under Wayne, came into the township under agreement with Abraham Witherup that the latter should transport his family and effects from Pittsburgh, and when he had secured a title to a tract of 500 acres receive half as payment for such services. After completing his settlement Lindsay removed to a location on the river, opposite the mouth of East Sandy, and subsequently removed to Meigs county, Ohio.

Early in the century James Major built a hotel on the Pittsburgh road, where the Pearl post office was later established, which was burned and rebuilt three times. Joseph Brunton was a later proprietor.

Isaac Bennett was a squatter on the property which later came into the possession of William Cather, making some slight improvements there. He was succeeded by George McClelland, who likewise remained but a short time, and by 1831 every vestige of these improvements had disappeared, presumably obliterated by a forest fire. At that date John Cather settled on the property, which he and his posterity developed materially. He was originally from Cecil county, Md., and later a resident of Mercer county, Pa., where he taught school and was engaged at different iron furnaces. In 1831 three were but three families on the Pittsburgh road, DeWoody's at Sandy creek, Major's at the opposite extremity of the township, and Cather's at Springville.

In 1833 a location was made upon what is still known as the old Shorts Farm by William Shorts, from Trumbull county, Ohio, a son-in-law of John Witherup, first sheriff of Venango county. Much of the land originally regarded as incapable of cultivation has been developed, but the township has never had a large population.

*Population.*—In 1880, the first census year after its organization, Victory township is recorded as having 377 inhabitants; 1890, 351; 1900, 272; 1910, 270.

*Industry.*—The principal business enterprises in Victory township were the furnaces in operation there for a period of about twen-

ty-five years. In 1835 William Cross and Thomas Hoge erected Sandy Furnace, subsequently known as Castle Rock Furnace, in the extreme western part of the township. It had an original capacity of two tons per day. In 1848 the dam and race were enlarged, raising the daily production to three tons. It was operated successively by Heaton & McConnell, McKee & Harris, Jordan, Bingham & Company, C. E. Lytle & Company, J. Painter & Company, and Painter, Graff & Company, with William McKee, Isaac Heaton, Mr. Jordan and Everhart Lytle as resident managers during the various ownerships. When business was suspended at this furnace, in 1860, there was a considerable amount of stock on hand.

In 1843 Andrew Bonner built Victory Furnace, which blew out in 1851. The original owner was succeeded by Archibald and Josiah Bonner, Alexander Hays and George Crawford, who allowed the plant to fall into decay. The property later passed into the possession of R. C. Shorts.

The township has no past in regard to oil and gas. Some wells, a few, were drilled a number of years ago, but there was no excitement. The township's history in regard to oil and gas is still in the future. Meanwhile its affairs are progressing along an up-grade. There are probably both oil and gas somewhere in the township, which may be developed yet.

*Springville* is located near the center of the township, seven miles from Franklin, and was

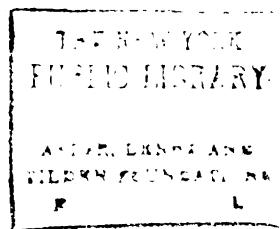
formerly the location of the post office of Balliet, but is now served by rural free delivery from Polk. The place ninety years back contained only a double log house with clapboard roof and weight poles, built by Samuel Irvine and occupied as a hotel. Later Reuben Dout built a hewed-log house there one and a half stories high. It was some time afterward that David Ruch erected a hotel. There is none here at present. The present population is fifteen or eighteen. The first storekeeper was Abraham Balliet, who subsequently settled at Honeywell, Mo. There is one store in the locality now, and farms along the four roads from Balliet, sixty-six heads of families being served by rural delivery from Polk—all farmers and laborers except one merchant. It seems that the region around Springville is the most thickly settled in the township, and northward, toward Polk. There is still considerable merchantable lumber in the township, which the inhabitants are marketing. Many good farms with neat dwellings and well kept buildings are seen along the highways. The southeastern portion is served by rural delivery from Kennerdell; in this section the country also appears prosperous.

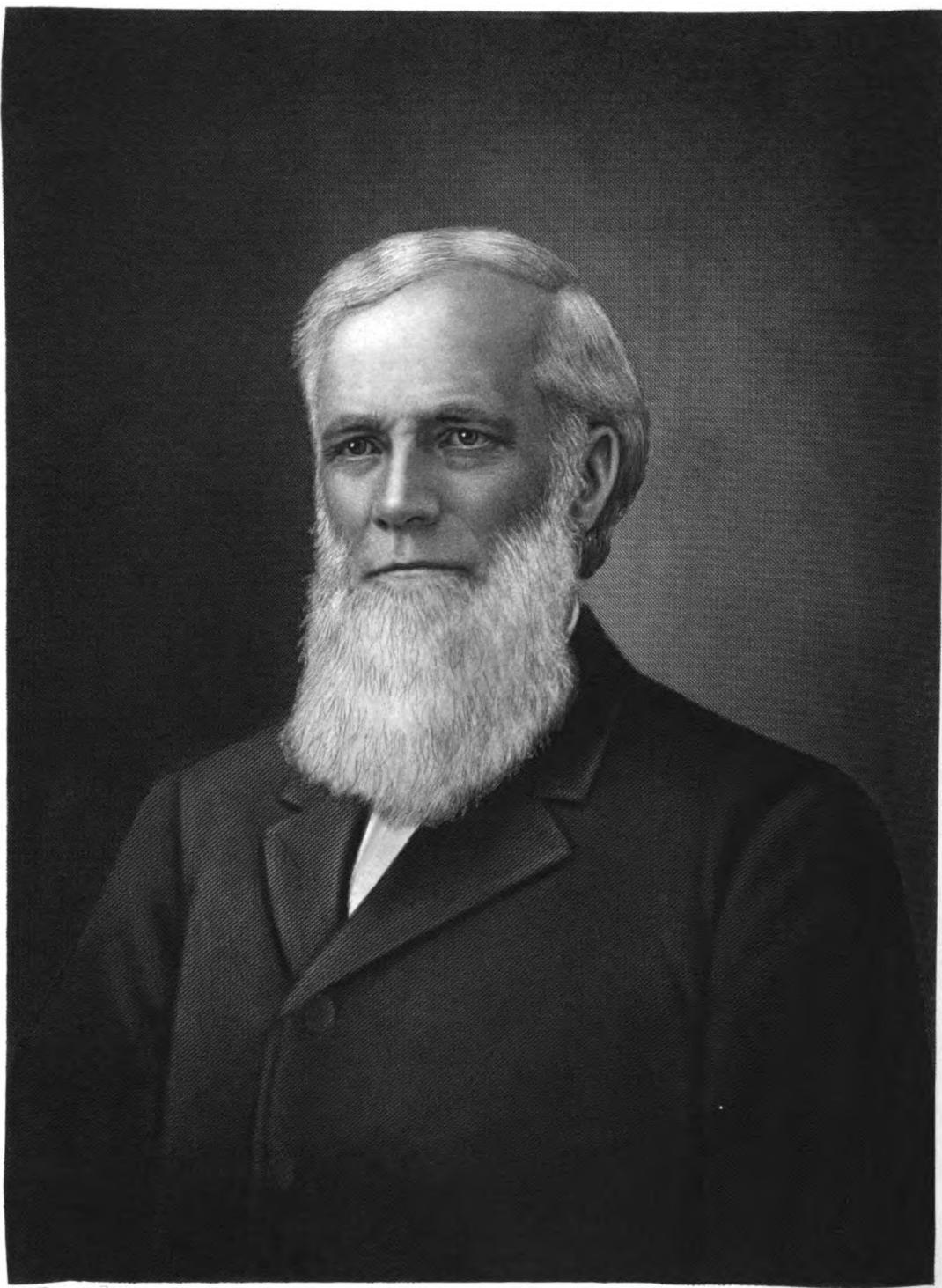
*Pearl*, a little village in the extreme southwestern corner of the township, has a population of about twenty-five. There was a post office here at one time, but the service is now from Polk.



## BIOGRAPHICAL







C H Beers & Company

Engr'd by Campbell Brothers N.Y.

*Almon M. Lovejoy*

## BIOGRAPHICAL

**A**RNOLD PLUMER was born June 6, 1801, in Jackson township, Venango Co., Pa., one of the first children of Caucasian parentage ushered into life in that vicinity, and destined to become its most distinguished citizen. He was a son of Samuel and Patty (Adams) Plumer, and it is said that his mother was a remarkable woman, a fact best indicated by the statement that her son is said to have received from her his best instruction. Early in life he evinced an active interest in politics, allying himself with the Democratic party and becoming a leader of the organization in his native county. Four months after reaching his twenty-second year he was elected sheriff of Venango county, acquitted himself so creditably in that capacity that in January, 1830, he was appointed by Governor Wolfe prothonotary and clerk of the courts, register and recorder, which combination of offices he held for the next six years. In 1836 Mr. Plumer was elected a member of the Twenty-fifth United States Congress, representing the district composed of Crawford, Erie, Warren and Venango counties. On May 20, 1839, he was named by President Van Buren as United States marshal for the Western district of Pennsylvania, filling that office until May 6, 1841. In October, 1840, he was elected to the Twenty-seventh Congress, and on Dec. 14, 1847, was again appointed United States marshal for the same district. On April 3, 1848, he resigned in order to accept the State treasurership. At the expiration of his term he retired from public life, though never ceasing to take a keen interest in politics. The record of his services forms part of the annals of his State and nation. In 1855 Mr. Plumer, as a warm personal friend of James Buchanan, was entreated, by other friends of that statesman, to accept the nomination for canal commissioner, in order to harmonize the

Democratic party after its defeat the preceding year. It was then a political maxim that "as Pennsylvania goes, so goes the Union," and, as Mr. Plumer was regarded as the strongest possible nominee, his candidacy was desirable to establish Democratic supremacy previous to Mr. Buchanan's nomination for the presidency the following year. Accordingly, he made a personal canvass, winning an election in the Buchanan interest. He was offered a place as postmaster-general in President Buchanan's cabinet, but declined on account of ill health.

During his twenty years of private life Mr. Plumer accumulated, by his remarkable foresight and business acumen, the largest fortune ever up to that time acquired by any one resident of Venango county. He was one of those who regard wealth as a trust, and actively aided a number of institutions by his influence and means, while his private charities were both numerous and comprehensive. In all movements which meditated the moral improvement and social culture of the community he was deeply interested. The qualities which made Mr. Plumer a leader among men were his intuition, his courage, his self-reliance and, above all, his fidelity to his word. When he had said he would do a thing, he did it. Loyal to obligation, firm in principle, rock-bound in his convictions, he possessed the implicit confidence of the public. Of tall stature and majestic appearance, dignified in bearing, and possessing to a striking extent the courtesy of the old school, his presence in any assembly attracted general attention. As a public speaker he practiced none of the arts of oratory, talking simply, earnestly and directly to the point, but in language so forcible and aggressive, and above all convincing, that his services on the platform were in great demand.

Mr. Plumer married, Feb. 6, 1827, Margaret, daughter of George McClelland, of Franklin, Pa., and they were the parents of six children, all of whom survived him with their mother: Elvira A., who married Judge Gilmore, of Uniontown, Pa., and survived him; Samuel; Margaret, wife of H. W. Lamberton, of Winona, Minn.; Arnold A.; Ann Eliza, wife of Rev. R. H. Austin, of Philadelphia; and Henry B. Devoted in his family relations, Mr. Plumer ever found his home a refuge from the strenuous duties and engrossing cares of public life, and one of his chief pleasures was the exercise of hospitality. On April 28, 1869, this man, so nobly planned and so true to every trust, passed away at his home in Franklin. His death removed from the community a true patriot and a model citizen, and all classes of society united in sincere mourning.

On the day of Mr. Plumer's death the Venango county courts adjourned out of respect to his memory. On the evening of April 29, 1869, the day following his death, a meeting of the citizens of Franklin was held at the courthouse, at which Hon. John Trunkey was appointed president, Hons. Richard Irwin and Thomas Hoge, vice presidents, and A. P. Whitaker, Esq., and Col. J. W. H. Reisinger, secretaries. The *Spectator* of May 7, 1869, had the following account of this meeting:

"Upon the completion of the organization of the meeting Gen. A. B. McCalmont rose and pronounced a eulogy upon the character of the late Hon. Arnold Plumer, whose decease was the occasion of the meeting, and moved the appointment of a committee of five, of whom he should not be one, to draft a minute expressive of the meeting. Whereupon C. Heydrick, William Hilands and R. L. Cochran, Esqrs., Col. James P. Hoover and Hon. R. S. M'Cormick were appointed. During the absence of the committee, and after their return, in support of their report, the meeting was addressed by Rev. S. M. Eaton, Hon. R. Irwin, Cols. L. D. Rogers and J. S. Myers, and the president. The committee, after a brief absence, reported the following minute, which was unanimously adopted, viz.:

"We, the neighbors and friends of the late Hon. Arnold Plumer, assembled at the Court House in the city of Franklin, this 29th day of April, 1869, by the announcement of his decease yesterday, desire to record our sense of the loss which we have sustained in his death. Before the middle-aged of to-day were born, and while the oldest among you were yet young men, Mr. Plumer had made his mark as a rising man, and the influence of his commanding intellect was felt in the country, and thence extended gradu-

ally and steadily throughout the Commonwealth until his name and character were, a few years ago, acknowledged and accepted as a tower of strength in a doubtful political contest which was to determine the then next presidential struggle. His power and influence never waned during the years of his most active life, because he was built upon a sure foundation—he adorned by a faithful and intelligent discharge of its duties every position to which he was called by the confidence of his neighbors or the partiality of his fellow citizens of a great Commonwealth, while his private character was unstained by the too common reproaches of public men. Such a record is a source of just pride to the citizens of the county of his birth, and of his lifelong residence, and challenges the respect of those among us who have not been able at all times, or upon all questions, to agree with him. And while we thus record the common judgment upon his public life, we, who have long and intimately known him, can not refrain from bearing testimony to his many excellent qualities as a private citizen, neighbor and friend. We point with affectionate pride to the purity of his private life, and the unostentatious dignity of his demeanor, which have done much to mould the character of our people. He was a true friend, but not a bitter enemy, who would go out of his way to renew strife; he was warm-hearted and ever willing to counsel any who needed the benefit of his great experience and mature judgment. Of this, many in our midst will long continue to bear grateful witness, as they will relate how the attainment of success or the aversion of calamity was attributed to his wise counsels. One who combined all the qualities we attribute to Mr. Plumer could not be other than he was, an unpretending Christian gentleman.

"In testimony of the common sympathy of this community with the bereaved family of our deceased friend, we direct a copy of this minute to be presented to them, attested by the officers of this meeting, and as a public tribute of respect for his memory we request our proceedings to be published in the newspapers of the county.

"JOHN TRUNKEY,  
"President.  
"RICHARD IRWIN,  
"THOS. HOGE,  
"Vice Presidents.

"A. P. WHITAKER,  
"J. W. H. REISINGER,  
"Secretaries."

GEN. CHARLES MILLER during his fifty years' residence in Franklin has probably left a deeper impression of his personality and initiative upon the city than has any other resident. Born in Alsace, France, he came to America when a child and spent his boyhood near Boston, N. Y., and when a young man moved to Franklin, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the dry goods business. He was one of the first to realize the possibilities of the oil industry, and purchasing a refinery entered into a partnership to manufacture railway lubricating oils by a secret process. The little company met with heart-breaking reverses, their plant was destroyed by fire, and

the business seemed on the brink of dissolution. With the indomitable spirit that has characterized all his actions, General Miller rebuilt the plant and personally took charge of the marketing and all the affairs of the company. So aggressive was he that the business grew rapidly, and in a short time Galena oils and service were known and recognized as the standard for lubrication on every railroad in the United States and Canada. So confident was he of the quality of Galena materials that he evolved and put into practice the idea of guaranteeing the net cost of lubrication, which has saved the railroads millions of dollars. Not satisfied with having practically all the steam and electric railroads of the country under contract, he looked to an extension of the business in foreign fields. Undismayed by the fact that he was confronted by well-established, strong competitors, he proceeded with his exploitation, and to-day has a large and growing business in South America and European countries—in fact, it was Galena oils that furnished the lubrication to the French railroads for twenty-two years and during the great war.

From his home in Miller Park, which spot he transformed from a rough hillside pasture into one of the show places of Franklin, he can look across the city and see the smoke from half a dozen thriving industries that owe their existence to his initiative and foresight and that have been the principal factors in the development of Franklin. At the top of the hill back of his home is his farm, situated on a rolling plateau overlooking the city and affording a view for miles up the French Creek valley. His farm is his hobby, but not a plaything. It represents a material investment and is making material returns. It is a mecca for sightseers and farmers, who come to see the blooded cattle and hogs and the hundreds of fowls, in the most modern quarters, cared for according to the most advanced methods and practices, and to study the application of scientific farming to what was but a few years ago a waste of barren pastures. Besides its personal gratification to its owner, the farm is an educational institution to the farmers of the surrounding country and has contributed much to an improvement of the farming methods and production of the county.

General Miller has been commander of Mays Post, G. A. R., Franklin, Pa., for twenty-five years. Had business not claimed him, he would probably have been a soldier. Military affairs always possessed for him a fascination, and his talent for organization and

command secure for him the admiration and obedience of men. For many years he was connected with the National Guard of Pennsylvania, rising from one grade to another until he secured the rank of major-general, which position he held for six consecutive years, under two different governors. Then his pressing private affairs necessitated his resignation.

When head of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, while studying a military map, his attention was attracted to the possibility of a short line railroad connecting the northwestern part of the State with the large cities of the southwest, and that would afford a shorter route between New York and Philadelphia and Chicago than any of the established lines. He immediately engaged engineers to make the necessary surveys, which he finally turned over to the New York Central Railroad Company, who built the Jamestown, Franklin & Clearfield railroad.

In securing the rights of way for the railroad, General Miller saw the possibility of large coal development in the territory traversed and purchased and leased coal rights and organized the Pennsy Coal Company, which under his management has grown into a very profitable concern with great future possibilities. He also purchased the Lake Erie, Franklin & Clarion railroad and made it the best equipped road in western Pennsylvania, and increased its earnings over five hundred per cent.

In addition to being president of the Galena-Signal Oil Company, General Miller is president of the Colburn Machine Tool Company, president of the General Manifold & Printing Company, president of the Evening News Printing Company, chairman and acting president of the Franklin Manufacturing Company, president of the First National Bank of Franklin, chairman of the board of the American Steel Foundries Company, and president of the Lake Erie, Franklin & Clarion Railroad Company.

General Miller received only a common school education, but all his life has been a student, and his retentive memory has enabled him to accumulate a fund of knowledge on all subjects that is surpassed by few college men. He holds the degree of A. M. from Bucknell University, and has also been decorated by the French government as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in recognition of his eminent services to industry and commerce.

General Miller is strongly attached to the city of Franklin, to which he has contributed

so liberally of his time and means, and is prouder of what he has done toward the civic and social betterment of the city than of his contribution to its material advancement. He built at his own expense a Sunday school room for the Baptist Church and contributed liberally to the rebuilding of the church itself, of which he has been one of the largest supporters. For forty-five years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school and president of the Miller Bible Class, with a membership of over one thousand. For nearly thirty years he has maintained at his own expense a night school, which has helped hundreds of young men and women to fit themselves for business life. For many years he was president of the Young Men's Christian Association, and assisted it liberally by his time and means. Under his leadership the present Y. M. C. A. building, costing over fifty thousand dollars, was built by public subscription. Although the city of Franklin abounds in many memorials to his generosity, enterprise and public spirit during more than fifty years of residence there, his greatest monument is the respect and affection in which he is held by his fellow citizens.

MICHAEL GEARY was at the time of his death regarded as Oil City's most prominent citizen, and the one to whom the town in a great measure owes its importance as a manufacturing center and its remarkable prosperity. He was born in Ireland, Sept. 26, 1844. Soon afterward his father, Daniel Geary, who was a farmer in County Clare, went to the United States, making the journey alone, to establish a home for the family, consisting of wife and three children, Susan (now a resident of Oil City), Daniel and Michael. When Michael was six and a half years old the mother received word to come to America and prepared to join her husband, reaching New York only to learn that he had died of cholera and had been buried for some time, his grave being at Limestone, near Buffalo, N. Y. The little family first found a home in Buffalo, and in the fall of 1851 removed to Westfield, N. Y., where the mother married Martin O'Shea, a farmer, by whom she also had three children, all now residents of Oil City, namely: John, who married Bridget Callahan, of Titusville; Mary Ann, and James.

After enjoying the advantages of a good old-fashioned practical schooling until fifteen years old, Michael Geary showed his strong trait of self-reliance by securing work and starting out for himself. When he was sixteen

the call for troops found him a man in strength and full of patriotism, although a boy in years, and in July, 1861, he enlisted, becoming a private in Company E, 3d Regiment, New York Volunteers. He served his country with distinguished gallantry, and though once wounded remained in active service for his full term of three years, when he was honorably discharged. At the close of the war he found employment in the Erie City Iron Works, where for seven years he devoted his time and energies to learning every detail and branch of the iron industry necessary in the successful management of such an establishment. In 1871 he removed to Titusville, Pa., where he was foreman for Gibbs, Sterret & Co., later becoming manager and also part owner of the iron works of Runser & Company, of Sharon, Pa. The natural advantages of Oil City as a manufacturing center, its proximity to the oil fields as a market, and to the sources of the raw materials needed in the business, appealed to his business sagacity, and in 1876 he moved thither, and in company with the late B. W. Vandergrift and Daniel O'Day, of New York City, started a small tank and boiler shop at the corner of Duncan street and the Western New York & Pennsylvania railroad. After the first year the interests of Mr. Vandergrift were purchased by Capt. J. J. Vandergrift and his son J. J. Vandergrift, Jr., now deceased, the business continuing under the personal management of Mr. Geary. It grew rapidly and steadily, so much so that in 1881 several acres of land on Seneca street were purchased and the plant removed to that location. From that time up to the present the business has shown remarkable development, the Oil City Boiler Works, as it has been known from the beginning, being a leading industrial establishment of the city and county. Mr. Geary and Mr. O'Day became sole owners in 1882. In addition to the tank and boiler department, the manufacture of engines on a large scale was undertaken, and for the manufacture of flues for boilers the tube works was added, the Oil City Tube Company being formed in 1887, at which time Mr. Geary became one of the directors. On Jan. 1, 1888, he became president, with Joseph Seep as vice president and G. S. Oberly secretary, and within a year or two the five-acre site on Seneca street and the railroad tracks was the scene of great industry. A lap-weld mill of corrugated iron, 304 by 200 feet in dimensions, was constructed, as well as a butt-weld mill 100 by 250 feet, the former containing four furnaces and having

a daily capacity of one hundred tons of pipe, ranging in size from one and a half to twelve inches in diameter and up to thirty feet long; while the latter had three furnaces and equipment for the production of one-eighth- to one-and-a-half-inch gas, steam, water and hydraulic pipes. Six hundred men were employed in the tube works alone.

In every department the strong master mind and guiding hand of Michael Geary brought success. Year after year the plants were enlarged, as their output increased with the scope of the markets for the products. Distributing agencies were established in Los Angeles, Cal., St. Louis, Mo., Denver, Colo., and Chicago for the West; Philadelphia and New York, East; Pittsburgh, Sistersville and Cincinnati for the South, and Buffalo for the Great Lakes and Canadian points. Every detail of the enormous business, from appointing agents, securing new markets, improving and perfecting the equipment and products of the plants, was planned and executed by Mr. Geary, who found his reward in the growth of the establishment from a small boiler shop, employing a half dozen men in 1871, to works with a force of two hundred in 1890, and at the time of his death the Oil City Boiler Works and Tube Mills combined were giving steady employment to a force of from fifteen hundred to two thousand men. At one time, in fact, the works had on their payroll more men than all the other manufactories of Oil City combined. Their name and fame, and that of Michael Geary, were known from one end of the country to the other.

Mr. Geary was naturally of a reserved turn, and with this disposition strengthened by his early training, yet no man was firmer in his personal friendships or took more interest in the general prosperity and growth of the city than he. During the long period of business stagnation and financial panic, which closed nearly every mill and iron manufacturing establishment in the country, he gave his big force of workmen steady employment, taking contracts at a figure that prohibited profits, and when orders were unobtainable turning out stock and storing it in the warehouses and works rather than allow his workmen, who were residents of Oil City, to go without food and clothing, as was the case in many other places throughout the country at that time. With the revival of the iron business he was the first manufacturer in the country to advance wages, and in consequence hundreds of skilled mechanics were attracted to

Oil City, securing employment and becoming permanent residents.

Although he was the leading spirit of these great concerns, Mr. Geary's energies were too great to be occupied with them alone. Recognizing the necessity for a first-class hotel in the city, he in 1888 bought the "Collins House" and the large brick block in which it was situated, refitted, refurnished and practically rebuilt the interior, and renamed it the "Arlington," which he personally conducted until its reputation as one of the leading hotels in the country was established, when he intrusted it to the hands of capable managers. Soon after establishing himself in business here he became one of the heaviest stockholders in the bank of the Oil City Trust Company, and for years was one of the directors of this solid and widely known financial institution. He was also a director and part owner of the Oil City Opera House, being chosen president and a director of the company in 1885; a half owner of the producing interests of the Hanley Oil Company of Bradford; president of the Snow Pump Works, of Buffalo; and had large oil producing interests in the New York and Sistersville (W. Va.) fields. At one time he was one of the largest stockholders in the Brush Electric Light Company of Buffalo, N. Y., and the first president of the Oil City Enterprise Milling Company.

Mr. Geary died of pneumonia Sept. 18, 1895, at New York, while on a business trip, and his son Daniel J. Geary succeeded him as general manager and vice president of the Oil City Boiler Works, Daniel O'Day holding the position of president. In 1907 Charles O'Day was elected chief executive, and Frank O'Day vice president, Charles P. Berry becoming secretary and treasurer. They have since discontinued the manufacture of tubes, making a specialty of gas and oil engines; army type boilers; the Geary water tube boiler (Mr. Geary's patents); Foster type water tube and marine boilers. For a number of years this concern owned the rights and patents of the Hohensten boilers, but have now discontinued their manufacture.

Mr. Geary married Catherine Flanagan, who was born Oct. 12, 1845, in Erie, Pa., daughter of Timothy Flanagan, and children as follows were born to this union: (1) Daniel J., now manager of sales for the Republic Iron & Steel Company, at Youngstown, Ohio, married Emma Sowers, and after her death (second) Ermine Monarch. (2) Catherine E., married A. F. Colling, and died leaving one child, Mary Dorothy, who lives

with her maternal grandmother in Hartford, Conn. (3) Mary R. is the wife of Edwin Eugene Seep, mentioned elsewhere in this work. (4) John A., who died in September, 1913, was engaged in the office of the Oil City Boiler Works. (5) Frank died when nine years old. (6) Clara A. is the wife of Charles P. Berry, secretary and treasurer of the Oil City Boiler Works, and they have two children, Charles Parker, Jr., and William Geary. (7) Stella E. is the wife of Joseph D. Flynn, formerly professor of mathematics in Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., now associated with the Travelers Insurance Company at Hartford, Conn. They have three children, Joseph Devine, Stella Elizabeth and Geary Benedict. (8) Charles J., deceased, married Genevieve Miller, of Clarion, Pa., and she survives him with one child, Catherine. (9) Arthur M. married Ella Shields, and their children are Mary Alice, Stella Elizabeth, Catherine Waybright, Arthur Michael and Daniel Joseph.

Mr. Geary is buried in St. Joseph's cemetery, Oil City, he and his family having been members of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. In politics he supported the Democratic party. His widow now makes her home at Hartford, Connecticut.

CAPT. CHARLES WILLIAM MACKEY, whose recent death removed one of the most conspicuous factors in business and legal circles in western Pennsylvania, was a man of inherited and acquired talents so well employed as to bring him fame and position which never diminished in over forty years of active association with the largest interests in this section. Entering upon the practice of the law at a time when "big business" was just at the beginning of its regime, he made a specialty of corporation law and organization, and in that field had few equals. The bare record of his accomplishments in this line gives an adequate idea of his capabilities. The mental power and energy lying back of his work are abundantly evidenced in all his undertakings. Captain Mackey was a native of Franklin, Pa., where the family has been established for almost a century. He was a descendant of James Mackey, of the Clan Mackey, three of whose sons came to America together in 1765, one locating in South Carolina; another in Chester county, Pa.; and the third, James, ancestor of Captain Mackey, at Port Deposit, Md. The second served as a delegate to the convention that framed the first constitution of Pennsylvania.

James Mackey, the brother from whom the family here under consideration descends, was born near Inverness, Scotland, and for a few years lived in County Tyrone, Ireland, marrying Keziah Rebecca Murphy, of that county. During the American Revolution he served in the Continental army. His children were: Margaret, who was married in Baltimore to Major Symington, of the United States army; Charles Washington; William, a soldier of the war of 1812, who married and moved to De-graff, Logan Co., Ohio; and Thomas, who located at Washington, D. C.

Charles Washington Mackey, son of James and Keziah Rebecca (Murphy) Mackey, was born April 21, 1791, at Port Deposit, Md., and passed his early life on the home farm. In his youth he learned the trade of wagonmaker with William Peary, at Wilmington, Del., and about the time he attained his majority went to Chester county, Pa., where he engaged in the business on his own account. He also followed that line for a number of years in Lycoming county, Pa., in December, 1831, settling at Franklin, Venango county, where he remained until his death, March 12, 1865. For nearly thirty years after his arrival at Franklin he carried on the manufacture of wagons and carriages, as well as blacksmithing, operating what was then considered a large establishment, and retiring in 1860, after a very successful career. As an able business man and a citizen of the most reliable character he held the esteem and confidence of the best element in the community, and used his influence in the furtherance of its worthiest movements, but he was not ambitious for official honors and did not solicit them. He served a term as coroner, however. The social and religious enterprises of the community had his cooperation and support, the Presbyterian Church counting him among its most valued members, and he was a ruling elder for a number of years. Fraternally he was a Mason, a charter member of Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M. Politically he was a Democrat.

On May 19, 1819, Mr. Mackey married Julia Ann Fagundus, who was born Dec. 14, 1801, in Chester county, Pa., daughter of John Fagundus, and granddaughter of John Fagundus, a native of Germany. The latter was born at Frankfort-on-the-Main, and came to America in 1732, locating at Philadelphia. On Feb. 3, 1761, he married Martha Done. Their son John was born Nov. 3, 1761, and on May 23, 1785, married Mary Cressman, who was born May 17, 1763, daughter of John and Catherine (Howard) Cressman, who were mar-

ried in 1749 at Philadelphia; John Cressman came to that city from Germany in 1732. To John and Mary (Cressman) Fagundus were born children as follows: Andrew, May 10, 1786; Carame, Oct. 24, 1787; Elizabeth, Aug. 28, 1789 (married Edward Pierce); Jacob, Aug. 27, 1791; Susan Jane, Jan. 1, 1793; Mary, Sept. 19, 1794; Catherine, Dec. 18, 1796; John, Aug. 19, 1798; Julia Ann, Dec. 14, 1801.

Ten children were born to the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Washington Mackey, viz.: James Fagundus, who was a major in the Civil war and served as treasurer of Venango county; John and William, both of whom died in Center county, Pa.; Mary Jane, wife of James K. Smith; Keziah Rebecca, wife of Richard A. Magill, of Fagundus, Warren Co., Pa.; Elizabeth Anne, wife of Royal E. Scott, of Fagundus; Susan Julia, wife of Judge Charles E. Taylor, at one time president judge of Venango county; Margretta, wife of Henry Pike, of Jamestown, N. Y.; Charles William; and Edward Pierce, who is deceased.

Charles William Mackey was born Nov. 19, 1840, in Franklin, Venango Co., Pa., and began his education there in the public schools. Later he attended the Venango Academy and had private instruction under Prof. William Burgwin. When he went to work he learned the printer's trade, and was publishing a newspaper when a mere youth, but by the time he was eighteen he had decided to take up the study of law, which he commenced with his brother-in-law, Hon. Charles E. Taylor. His legal studies were interrupted by the Civil war, for he was among the first to offer his services, assisting in recruiting the first company in the county, the Venango Grays. This command was mustered in as Company C, 10th Regiment, Pennsylvania Reserves, and attached to the division first commanded by Gen. George A. McCall, later by General Meade. Entering the service May 6th as first lieutenant of his company, his first active duties were at Baltimore and Washington. From August to November he was detached on recruiting service in Pennsylvania. Thereafter, until March, 1862, he was in McCall's Division of the Army of the Potomac, and detached as ordnance officer on the staff of Gen. E. O. C. Ord. He took part in the expedition to Gunnell's Farm, Va., Dec. 6, 1861; reconnaissance to Dranesville, Dec. 10; action at Dranesville, Dec. 20; advance on Manassas, March 10-15, 1862; McDowell's operations against Fredericksburg, in April-June; Peninsular campaign in June and July; Mechanicsville, June 26; Gaines' Mill, June 27; Charles City Cross Roads, June 30; Malvern Hill,

July 1; was at Harrison's Landing until Aug. 15; in the movement to Centerville, Aug. 15-26; Pope's campaign, Aug. 26-Sept. 2; engagements at Gainesville, Aug. 28; Groveton, Aug. 29; Second Bull Run, Aug. 30; Chantilly, Sept. 1; Maryland campaign, in September and October; battle of South Mountain, Sept. 14; Antietam, Sept. 16-17; advance on Falmouth, Va., in October and November; "Mud March," Jan. 20-24, 1863; duty in defense of Washington, February to June; Gettysburg, July 1-3. He received his honorable discharge July 11, 1863, and shortly afterward received the appointment, from Secretary Chase, of special agent from the treasury, being assigned to the district of Eastern Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. In that capacity he collected and disbursed large sums of money, and his accounts were audited as perfect, his duties being creditably and ably performed in spite of the adverse conditions caused by the unsettled state of affairs at the time. He resigned Aug. 1, 1865.

It may be appropriate here to mention that after his Civil War service Captain Mackey gave further military service in the Pennsylvania National Guard, and in 1872 received his captain's commission therein from Governor Hartranft. He was a valued officer, and relinquished his connection with the Guard reluctantly, because of the ever-increasing pressure of business.

Captain Mackey returned to Pennsylvania when he gave up his treasury position and shortly afterward gained admission to the bar, Aug. 29, 1865, on Sept. 1st becoming a member of the law firm of Taylor and Gilfillan, of Franklin. Business came rapidly, and it was not long before he ranked with the best patronized lawyers in this region, being retained as counsel in some of the most important cases in western Pennsylvania. On Dec. 5, 1875, he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States, on motion of Hon. Jeremiah S. Black, former attorney general. Corporation law was his specialty from the outset of his practice, and from acting as solicitor for various railroad and other corporations he also became connected with them in an official capacity, forming so many associations of important character that he was regarded as one of the strongest corporation lawyers in the State. His gift for organization brought him particular renown, and he has a record of having organized or helped to organize a hundred or more corporations, with an aggregate capitalization of one hundred and fifty millions. Twenty-odd railroad companies, six gas com-

panies, sixty-seven manufacturing companies, several banks, three companies for the reduction of ores, and several coal mining and quarrying companies, go to make up this total, including the following: Allegheny Valley Railroad, of which he was attorney several years; Olean, Bradford & Warren Railroad (now a part of the Western New York & Pennsylvania system), of which he was the projector, vice president and general solicitor; Pittsburgh, Bradford & Buffalo Railroad, of which he was projector and president; Cincinnati & South-eastern Railroad (now part of the Chesapeake & Ohio system), of which he was a projector, vice president and general solicitor; Pittsburgh & Western Railroad, of which he was a director and general solicitor; Norfolk & Virginia Beach Railroad, which under his management established the beautiful summer and winter resort at Virginia Beach; New York Connecting Railroad (now owned by the Pennsylvania), of which he was a vice president, having under way the project of a bridge over the East river between Morrisiana and Brooklyn; Colorado & Northwestern Railroad, of which he was vice president and general counselor; the Firth-Sterling Steel Company of Pittsburgh, which has furnished large quantities of projectiles to the government; the American Axe & Tool Company, one of the largest concerns of the kind in the country; the Columbia Gas Light & Fuel Company, of which he was also president, which supplies natural gas to various places in Pennsylvania and, through conduits, to Youngstown, Ohio; the Franklin Natural Gas Company, of which he was president; the Franklin Steel Company, whose works are now the Franklin plant of the American Steel Foundries; the Anglo-American Oxide Company, whose works are in Belgium; the Shenango Coal & Mining Company, one of the largest coal corporations in western Pennsylvania; the National Lead Company; the Columbia Spring Company; the National Saw Company; and the Erie breweries, whose consolidation he effected. He was a director in several Pennsylvania banks, the Exchange Bank of Franklin, the Savings Bank of Franklin, the Emlenton Bank and the Edensburg Bank.

For many years Captain Mackey maintained offices in New York City, transacting most of his operations from that point. He also had law offices in Franklin, being senior member of the firm of Mackey & Hughes, of that city. Though handling enough legal and business responsibilities to more than fill one man's time, he was long active in politics, as a stanch

Republican, from the time he cast his first vote for Lincoln, in 1864. It was said that no man in Pennsylvania rendered the party better service than Captain Mackey, and he was its candidate in 1884 and 1886 in the Twenty-seventh Congressional district of Pennsylvania. His defeat both times was brought about by the use of a large corruption fund in Erie, for except in that city he had a majority largely in excess of that of any Republican candidate in the district for years, the vote he drew in his own county being larger than Blaine's in 1884 and nearly three times the majority given for Governor Beaver in 1886. In 1888 his work as a speaker in New York and New Jersey attracted wide attention. In Franklin, where he made his home, he was city solicitor, city councilman and mayor, receiving the highest honors his fellow citizens could bestow.

Captain Mackey had numerous social connections, being a companion of the New York Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion; a member of Mays Post, G. A. R., of which he had been commander; a member of the Army and Navy, New York, Manhattan Lawyers', Colonial, Hardware and other clubs of New York City; the American Geographical Society; the New York Medico-Legal Society; the Grosvenor Club, of London; the Duquesne Club, of Pittsburgh; and the Nursery Club, of Franklin. Fraternally he was a Mason, a past commander in the Knights Templar, a district deputy grand master and district deputy grand high priest, Royal Arch Masons. He died May 25, 1917, at Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania.

On May 9, 1867, Captain Mackey married Lauretta Barnes Fay, daughter of Cyrus Paige and Myra (Barnes) Fay, of Columbus, Ohio, and granddaughter of Daniel Fay, of Hardwick, Mass., who was born Dec. 14, 1752, and served in Colonel Larned's regiment in the Revolution. Her descent from Elder Brewster, of the "Mayflower," is traced as follows: Elder Brewster and his wife Mary; Gov. Thomas Prence and his wife Patience (Brewster), married Aug. 5, 1625; Maj. John Freeman and Mercy (Prence), married in February, 1649; John Freeman and Sarah Merrick, married Dec. 18, 1672; Chillingham Foster and Mary (Freeman), married in 1704; Deacon James Foster and Lydia Winslow, married July 10, 1729; Col. Timothy Paige and Mary (Foster), married Oct. 24, 1754; Daniel Fay, Jr., and Mary (Paige), married Aug. 23, 1778; Cyrus Paige Fay and Myra Barnes, married Aug. 18, 1819.

Six children were born to Captain Mackey

and his wife: Susan Taylor, born March 27, 1868, was married June 25, 1889, to Edward E. Hughes, and their children are Henry M. and Charles Mackey; Myra Barnes, born March 27, 1870, married Cyrus Clark Osborne; Cyrus Fay, the next in the family, was born July 1, 1872; William Chase, born Jan. 7, 1877, died in Hong Kong, China, Jan. 14, 1912; Julia Anne, born Nov. 9, 1878, married Dr. Karl Emmerling, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Marion Paige, born April 13, 1884, married Thomas J. Campbell, of Franklin, Pa., April 28, 1909, and has one child, Marion Paige, born March 24, 1910.

JAMES B. RIAL, of Franklin, is one of the extensive oil producers of that region, and though he may not be counted among its oldest residents he may very properly be included among the pioneers in the oil industry, with which he has been associated since he was a mere boy. His father, coming to Franklin to engage in business because it promised to be a live center of trade, was quick to see the possibilities in the oil fields, and the son being old enough to afford him practical help naturally did so, thus early entering the line which has proved to be his chief interest. Father and son in turn have ranked with the most substantial men of their time in this region.

The late Edward Rial, father of James B. Rial, was of English extraction, John Riale, his first ancestor in America, having come to this country from his native England in 1725. The final "e" was not used in spelling the name for long after his arrival here. John Riale settled in Bucks county, Pa., where he followed farming. His son Richard, the next in the line we are tracing, was born between 1735 and 1740, and was also a farmer in Bucks county. John Rial (2), son of Richard, was a resident of Bucks county, serving many years as justice of the peace at New Britain.

George Rial, son of John Rial (2), was born about 1800, and at the time of his death had his home at Harrisburg, Pa., where he is buried. He did contracting, constructing large works, and when he died was building a canal for the government, from Clark's Ferry to Harrisburg. His death was caused by accidental poisoning. His wife, Harriet (White), survived him with one son, Edward.

Edward Rial was born July 22, 1826, at Harrisburg, Pa., and was reared by his maternal grandparents, his parents dying when he was very young. Though his educational advantages were limited to the instruction he had in a few terms' attendance at country school

he became a well educated man, having an active mind and intelligence which only needed the spur of interest. He saw that if he was to succeed, it would have to be through his own efforts, but that was no discouragement to one of his ambitious temperament. After working in a hardware store in Center county for a time he conducted a livery stable, and later carried on a hotel at Tidioute, Pa., at the same time operating a stage line between that point and Warren. In this connection he had the government contract for carrying the mails. From Tidioute he removed to Union City, Pa., where he was occupied in a new venture, the manufacture of an improved patented pump. In 1869 he came to Franklin, where he first embarked in the grocery trade. But before long he caught the fever then raging over the oil discoveries in this region, and showed his faith in the value of the product by selling out his grocery and investing in oil leases and lands, being one of the first to try his fortune in that way. Though never reckless of his hard-earned capital he was liberal in making investments, and chose carefully his judgment proving unusually sound. By 1879 he was interested in nineteen wells, all producing. Mr. Rial was indefatigable about following up promising leads, and never spared either time or pains to investigate his purchases thoroughly or plan their exploitation to the last detail. Hence his success. He built the tramway to the summit of Point Hill, to deliver supplies to the wells above, being the first to make this improvement in service. It was so with all his operations. They were well thought out and well dispatched, and he continued to engage in active business until his death, at Franklin, Aug. 15, 1911, at the age of eighty-five years. He is buried with his wife in Franklin cemetery. Mr. Rial was a member of the Baptist Church, to whose support he contributed liberally, and in politics he was a Democrat in principle, but not active in the party.

On April 2, 1848, Mr. Rial was married to Catherine Morrison, who was born Jan. 1, 1832, daughter of Thomas Morrison, of Mercer county, Pa., and died March 9, 1900. Eight children were born to this union: Clara, born Jan. 7, 1849, married John P. Kennedy, of Philadelphia, and died April 2, 1877, the mother of two children, Rosan (born Oct. 1, 1875, wife of H. Griffith Clark) and James E. (born Sept. 9, 1876, married Alice Parker and has a daughter Catherine, born Oct. 11, 1900); John, born Oct. 17, 1850, died April 11, 1851; Edward, born May 6, 1852, married Oct. 4, 1875, Henrietta Kilgore, and died Aug. 1, 1900.

leaving a son, Wirt Duffield (born in September, 1876); Savage, born Feb. 25, 1854, died Oct. 13, 1856; Emma, born Feb. 16, 1856, died Aug. 10, 1856; James B. is mentioned below; Phyla Emma, born Dec. 16, 1859, married Sept. 29, 1887, Edward L. Branch; Katherine was born Jan. 20, 1862.

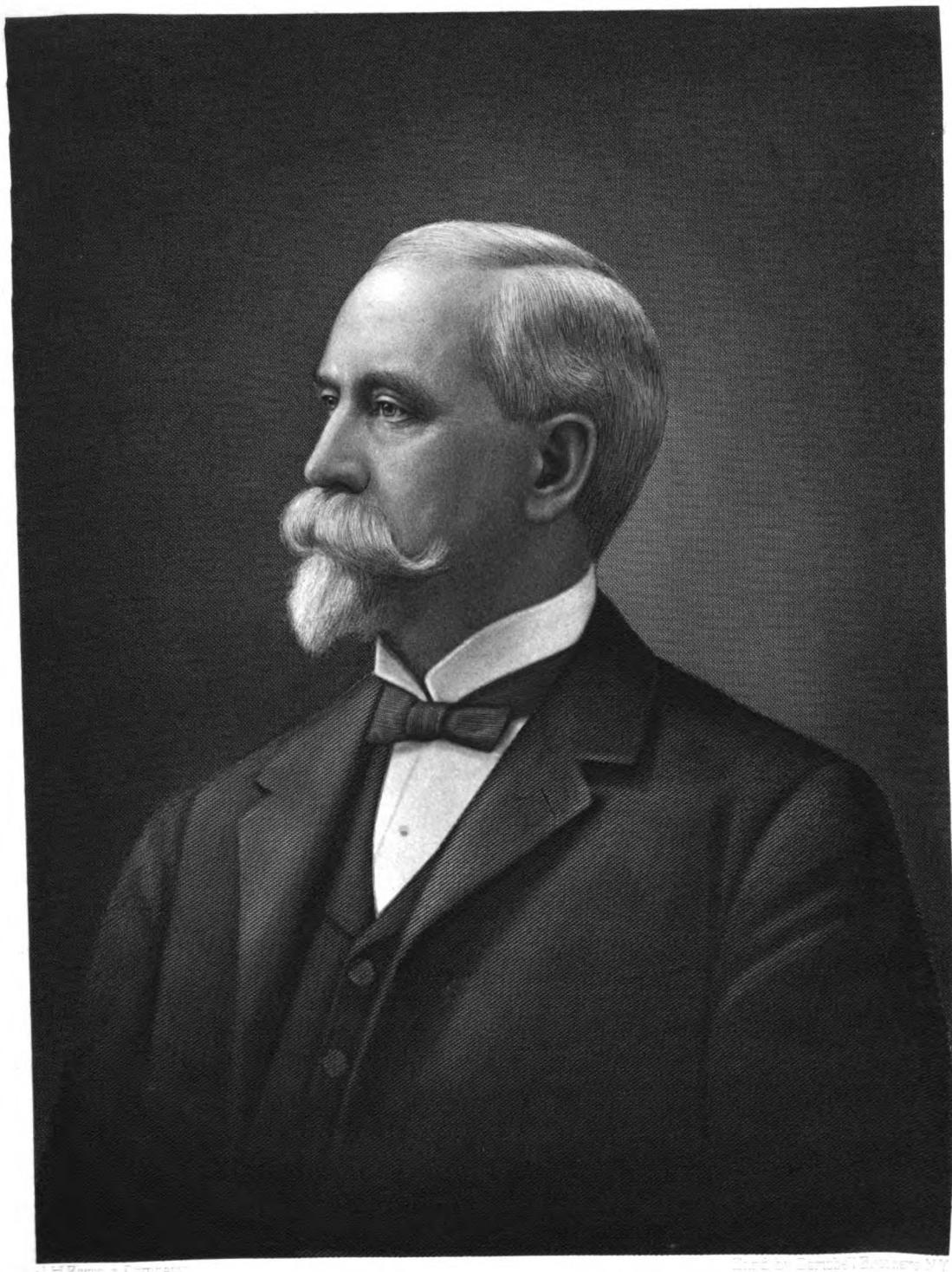
James B. Rial was born July 29, 1857, at Tidioute, Warren Co., Pa., and acquired his education in the public schools, continuing his attendance after the family settled at Franklin. Help was scarce in those days, so he began to work with his father when only a boy. In 1870 they drilled the second well on Point Hill, where James B. Rial now resides, and were rewarded with what is known commercially as the first sand heavy oil, the best in the United States. In 1874 he became his father's regular partner, the firm being known during the lifetime of Edward Rial as E. Rial & Sons, and later as E. Rial & Son, and the Rial oil interests at present are carried on under the name of J. B. Rial & E. Rial Estate. The Rials have drilled and bought about one hundred and twenty-five wells on the Point alone, and James B. Rial owns many producing wells at this writing. Besides his interests at Franklin he has wells in Butler county, up French creek, and in different parts of Venango county along the Allegheny river. Practically all his business hours have been given to the production of oil, and his heavy investments have been made to pay well by judicious operations. Like his father he is a clever judge of oil properties, and his long experience in handling them has made him one of the most trusted authorities in the region.

Mr. Rial is widely known in business circles, especially in his own line, and the social connections he maintains have further widened his acquaintanceship. He belongs to the Washington Club, Odd Fellows fraternity, Red Men, Eagles, Maccabees and Masons, in the latter affiliating with Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M.; Venango Chapter, No. 211, R. A. M.; Keystone Council, No. 42, R. & S. M.; Franklin Commandery, No. 44, K. T.; and Zem Zem Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Erie, Pennsylvania.

In 1877 Mr. Rial married Ida J. Brown, daughter of James H. and Sarah Jane (McChristian) Brown, the former a well known contractor of Franklin. Ten children have been born to this marriage, namely: Edward J., living on Point Hill, who is in partnership with his father; Sarah J., wife of Willard Carr (they live on the Point); Harry E., living at Rockmere, who married Rosa Eckels; Geor-

gia, wife of Curt McElheny; James O., of Franklin, who is a machinist by trade and associated with his father in business; Ida J., wife of Warren Shaffer, of Cranberry township, this county, an oil operator; Roll R., who lives on the Point and is with his father in business; Ruth, wife of Elmer Kechler, of Youngstown, Pa.; Irene A., wife of George W. Black, of Franklin, Pa.; and Helen Marie, wife of Donald Bleakley, son of W. J. Bleakley. Mr. and Mrs. Rial have fourteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They have a beautiful home on the Point, the location commanding a view that cannot be surpassed in this region for beauty of scenery. The family are Presbyterians in religious association.

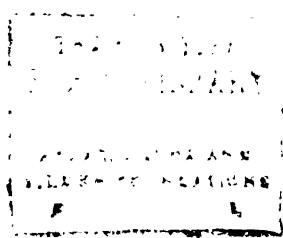
HENRY BALDWIN PLUMER, for many years prominent in legal and political circles in Pennsylvania, was born in Franklin, Venango Co., Pa., Sept. 25, 1841, youngest son of Arnold and Margaret (McClelland) Plumer. He received a thorough education and in his boyhood had the advantages of the guidance of his distinguished father, during which association his mental and moral characteristics no doubt took shape in the way that afterward made him distinguished. He was particularly taught to revere those principles of life and morals which had won for his father the confidence and respect of all who had business or professional relations with him. He studied in the University of Pennsylvania, being a member of the class of 1862, was graduated from Harvard Law School in 1863, and was admitted to the bar in Boston in 1863, being subsequently granted the right to practice at the bar of Fayette county, Pa., before the Supreme court of Pennsylvania, and at the bar of Philadelphia. He began practice in the office of his brother-in-law, Judge Samuel Gilmore, of Uniontown, and later removed to Franklin, Venango county, where he practiced with his brother Samuel Plumer. In the pursuit of his profession Mr. Plumer made an enviable reputation for legal knowledge and skill and for his eloquence in presenting cases to the court. He threw himself with all the zeal of his nature and with all of his great learning into the cause of his client. He was ambitious for success, but he never wished it at the price of his honor, and looked with disdain upon anyone whose standard was, first, success, no matter what the means. He belonged to that class of lawyers who look upon the profession of the law as an order of government, and believed that, whether in office or out of it, he who measured



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*Henry B. Planter*



up to his full height should give public service. His attitude toward the bar, his clients, and, more important still, his country at large and the community in which he lived, as exemplified in his actions, presented high ideals of what a lawyer's life should be.

Developing a deep interest in public affairs, Mr. Plumer became a leader of Democratic thought in Venango county at a very early age, but office holding had little allurement for him. In 1881, without his consent, his name was brought forward as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for State treasurer, and his friends and supporters generally made a strong campaign for him, although he did not receive the nomination. In the following year he was nominated for Congress in the Twenty-sixth district of Pennsylvania, composed of the counties of Venango, Erie and Warren, and although the district was strongly Republican reduced the normal majority very largely, carrying some sections, notably his own county, by a handsome majority. When Robert E. Pattison was inaugurated as governor of Pennsylvania, Mr. Plumer was appointed aide-de-camp, with the rank of Colonel. During the first administration of President Cleveland he was appointed Naval Officer of the Port of Philadelphia, and at the time he received this appointment removed to Philadelphia, making his home in Germantown. As Naval Officer he proved a faithful and competent official, conducting the business of the office to the entire satisfaction of the Treasury Department in Washington, as well as to those who transacted business with the Port of Philadelphia.

Mr. Plumer was a delightful host. He was a most effective conversationalist, having accumulated a rich store of information and kept in close touch with the events of the day and with prominent men of all professions and callings. With unusual professional ability he united a charm of manner, a buoyant optimism and a capacity for enduring friendship that will surely keep his memory green in the hearts of all who knew him well. His was one of those personalities whose recollection remains so vivid that it seems fadeless, whose memory lingers undimmed in the hearts of those that loved him. He was a liberal giver to charity, and took a great interest in young men in whom he recognized ambition and ability.

On Nov. 4, 1866, Mr. Plumer married Marilla P. Davenport, daughter of William and Phylanca (Tracy) Davenport, of Erie, Pa.

By this marriage Mr. Plumer gained the life companionship of a charming and congenial woman, one fitted in all ways to be his helpmate. She survives him, making her home in Philadelphia. They had the following children: (1) Henry Adams Plumer, born Dec. 11, 1867, was educated in the Berkeley School, New York City, and in the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University. He married Edith Rankin, daughter of Dr. David Rankin, of Allegheny. (2) Fanny Galbraith Plumer was married in June, 1898, to John Dexter McIlhenny, and has had four children, John Dexter, Jr. (born in April, 1899), Frances Plumer (who died when three years old), Bernice M. and Henry Plumer. (3) Elvira Gilmore Plumer. (4) Margaret Plumer married Carl Augustus Zeigler, of Philadelphia, and has two children, Marilla Davenport and Margaret Plumer. (5) Davenport Plumer, born Oct. 12, 1879, was educated in the Penn Charter School and then studied abroad, was graduated from the law school of Pennsylvania University in 1902, and began the practice of his profession with Owen J. Roberts, Esq., subsequently engaging independently in law pursuits. On Jan. 26, 1905, he married Carolyn Eugenia Heberton, daughter of Rev. Edward Payson and Caroline (Vogdes) Heberton, and they have two children, Davenport, Jr. (born Nov. 18, 1906), and Caroline Heberton (born May 9, 1909).

Henry B. Plumer was removed from the scene of his activities in the prime of life and in the full maturity of all his powers. This gifted and lovable man passed away Dec. 10, 1903, leaving to those who knew him the inspiration of a noble memory. Honorable in purpose, fearless in conduct, he stood for many years as one of the most eminent and valued sons of Pennsylvania, and one of the brightest ornaments of her bar, whose annals are enriched by the record of his achievements. Actuated both in public and private life by the highest motives and the loftiest principles, he irradiated the ever-widening circle of his influence with a brightness of spirit that expressed the pure gold of his character. The story of the life of Henry Baldwin Plumer is one of honor. As lawyer and citizen he served ably and faithfully his day and generation.

BENJAMIN F. BRUNDRED (deceased), a resident of Oil City for almost half a century, made his name a synonym for successful oil operations in a long-continued association with the refining and production of oil.

At the time of his death he was classed with the largest individual producers in the country.

The Brundred family moved to this section from New Jersey, where Benjamin Brundred, the grandfather of Benjamin F. Brundred, settled in 1819. The great-grandfather, James Brundred, was a native of Winkhill, near Manchester, in the parish of Ipstones, Staffordshire, England. He owned valuable landed property, with mills, houses and other buildings. He was survived by his wife, Anne (Beresford), also a native of England, by whom he had the following children: Benjamin, William, James and Joseph. The mother remarried, becoming the wife of a Mr. Yates, and coming to America to visit her sons at Oldham, N. J., died there soon after her arrival.

Benjamin Brundred, son of James and Anne (Beresford) Brundred, was born in 1792 at Winkhill, and coming to America in 1819 bought a large estate near Paterson, N. J., with a number of slaves whom he soon freed. His place was at Oldham (now Haledon, near Paterson), where he built iron mills for the manufacture of cotton machinery which are still in use, employing a number of inventors to help perfect his machinery, some of which was exported to Russia. Evidently he was much esteemed by his employes, who in 1836 presented him with a large silver pitcher and two goblets as tokens of their regard. He was a man of ambitious nature and wide vision, and in building up his foreign trade acquired connections in Mexico which necessitated frequent visits to that country. During the Mexican war he made large contracts with the Mexicans for cotton machinery which was never paid for, with the effect of practically ruining his business. He died at Oldham in 1853, of apoplexy, and was buried in the old Episcopal cemetery there, whence his remains were removed in 1901 to Cedar Lawn cemetery. In 1842 he had made a visit to England with his son William James.

Mr. Brundred married Elizabeth Godden, who was born Oct. 3, 1791, daughter of William and Mary (Rogers) Godden, and died April 14, 1877. She, too, was interred in the Episcopal cemetery, the remains being removed to Cedar Lawn in 1901. Of their children, the first four (three of whom were named William) died in infancy, in England; Louisa, born in England, married Josiah Shippy, and died in America; Mary Anne, born in 1820, married Dr. Otto Rottan; Jane died in infancy; Jane (2), born in 1822, married Isaac Van Wagoner; William James was the father of Benjamin F. Brundred; Charlotte, born in

August, 1826, died Dec. 25, 1842; Eliza died in infancy; Eliza (2), born in 1834, married Charles Scriven; Emma married Thomas Sharrock; Harriet married John A. Vanderveer.

William James Brundred was born in 1825 at Oldham (now Haledon), N. J., where he was reared, learning his father's business, which he attempted to rehabilitate and continue after his father's death. But it was so involved owing to the failure of the Mexican government to pay its obligations that he could not get it on a profitable basis again, and he turned to other lines, going to Greenport, L. I., and Woods Holl, Mass., where he became interested in the manufacture of fish oils. Accordingly he was attracted to Pennsylvania with the discovery of oil in this region, where he sank what capital he still possessed in eighteen dry holes which failed to yield the expected returns. He became agent for the Green Line, and later for the Empire Transportation Company, in connection with the Pennsylvania railroad, holding that position until his death, which occurred Aug. 12, 1889, of apoplexy, when he was sixty-four years old. He made his home in Oil City, where he was a vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church for a number of years, and he and his wife were among the most highly esteemed residents of the town, exerting a beneficial influence in all their associations.

On Sept. 21, 1848, William J. Brundred married Rachel Magee, who was born June 26, 1826, daughter of Dr. William C. Magee, and died Feb. 27, 1901. Six children were born to this union: (1) Benjamin F. is mentioned below. (2) William Magee, born in 1851, died in 1856. (3) Mary Elizabeth, born in 1853, died in 1855. (4) Charlotte Louise was married Oct. 8, 1873, to Stanley Loomis, and died in 1887, the mother of five children: William, born Oct. 13, 1874, who married Josephine Drake Goettel and has one son William Goettel, born March 9, 1905; Charlotte Louise, born in 1877, who married Frank Edward Spencer and has two children, Stanley L. (born in 1899) and Frank E. (born in 1902); Stanley, born in 1879, who died in infancy; Lucile, born in 1881, who married Dr. Raffaele Bastianelli; and DeWitt, born in 1882, who married Mildred Goettel and has one son, DeWitt, Jr. (5) Lizzie, born in 1857, died in 1869. (6) Kate, born in 1860, died the same year.

Dr. William C. Magee, Mrs. Brundred's father, was born April 28, 1792, son of Dr. John Magee, who lived near Belfast, Ireland, and who had a brother that fought on the

American side in the Revolutionary war. John Magee married Jean Campbell, whose mother was Jean Chambers, and according to family tradition the latter's brothers, William and Robert Chambers, lived to be one hundred and four and one hundred and five years old, respectively; they fought in the battle of the Boyne, July 1, 1690, and their swords are still treasured in the family. Dr. Magee practiced in Belfast, where he lived and died. His son William C. Magee was named after his uncle, Sir William Chambers, was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and was one of the most prominent physicians of his day in New Jersey. On July 17, 1816, he married Mary Anne Breadin, daughter of Tully Breadin, professor of astronomy in Trinity College, Dublin. Her mother dying when she was an infant, Mrs. Magee went to live with her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Anne (Dobbin) Wade, who died shortly afterward, when she was taken into the family of her guardian, Mr. Eccles, in Roan, Ireland, remaining there until her marriage.

Benjamin F. Brundred was born June 28, 1849, at Paterson, N. J., and was educated in the East, attending public school in Brooklyn, the Highland Military Academy at Worcester, Mass., from which he was graduated in 1865, and Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College in New York City, coming to Oil City with his parents in July, 1866. Here he immediately took a position as clerk for the Empire Transportation Company and Green Line under his father, becoming chief clerk of the Empire Line in 1868, with charge of all the shipments of crude and refined oil made by that line from points on the railroad between Tidioute and Titusville. His duties included a vast amount of detail work because of the large number of refineries and loading racks located between those points, from which the shipments were made, but he handled them capably, and in 1870 received the appointment of chief clerk of the Green Line also, at that time the crude oil line of the Pennsylvania railroad, with loading racks at Parkers Landing, Foxburg, and many other points on the Allegheny Valley road. He continued to fill both positions until 1877, when he resigned to devote himself to the production of oil, having acquired valuable interests in Clarion and McKean counties, in the famous Edenburg district and Bradford fields. His first venture as a producer was made in partnership with his mother, and he took much satisfaction in its success, which enabled him to make a partial return to his parents to offset the large investments they had lost. In the fall of 1879, in association

with Marcus Hulings and Dr. Harding, he built the Emerald Oil Works, a small refinery at the mouth of the Cornplanter river, which, later, remodeled and greatly enlarged, was well known as the Union Refinery, with its large barrel and paraffin works, all of which passed into the hands of the Standard Oil Company in October, 1882. Meantime it had been owned and successfully operated by Marcus Hulings, Gen. John A. Wiley, Wesley Chambers and Mr. Brundred, who was manager. When the transfer was made he went on with the Standard Oil Company in the same capacity, and when these works were abandoned, in the early eighties, he was appointed treasurer of the Eclipse Lubricating Oil Works, at Franklin. He then became president and general manager of the Imperial Refining Companies, having two refineries and barrel works at Oil City, holding that position until 1894, when on account of the transfer of the refining business to the seaboard the works were dismantled. From that time on he occupied himself with oil production, in which he was notably prosperous.

Mr. Brundred's tireless energy and progressive tendencies were as valuable to his home city as to the advancement of his own interests. He could conceive large undertakings and had the courage to develop his ideas and put them into practical application. He was one of the first to see how much Oil City might be benefited by an electric railway system and light and power plant, and was one of the earliest promoters of such enterprises locally, becoming a stockholder and director of the Oil City Railway Company (later merged with the Citizens' Traction Company and Light & Power Company) and one of the original directors of the Oil City Electric Light Company, being its first secretary and serving a term as president. For fourteen years he was president of the Oil City board of health, in which association he gave public-spirited service which conferred permanent benefits upon the city. He was a prominent member of Christ Church, and for thirty-four years vestryman and secretary of the vestry, at the end of that period becoming senior warden. His death occurred March 28, 1914.

On April 3, 1878, Mr. Brundred was married, in Pittsburgh, to Elizabeth Dilworth Loomis, daughter of Moses DeWitt and Elizabeth Scott (Dilworth) Loomis, and she survives him, occupying the old residence on West First street which Mr. Brundred built thirty-five years ago. Though a club member and enjoying many agreeable social connections Mr. Brundred found his chief enjoyment in the

domestic circle. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Brundred: (1) Elizabeth Dilworth, born May 17, 1879, married Harold Douglas Brown and has two children, Elizabeth Dilworth (born Oct. 11, 1905) and Harold Douglas (born April 14, 1908). Mr. Brown is now president of the Crystal Spring Poultry Co., whose farm was started by Mr. Brundred, after his retirement from the Standard, owing to ill health, the property, which is a few miles out from Oil City, having been developed as a duck farm with the same energy which he put into all his undertakings. It is the largest farm of its kind in Pennsylvania, and from the beginning has been conducted on a strictly business basis, as many as eighty-four thousand ducks having been raised for the market in one season. (2) Rachel, born Aug. 6, 1881, married John McCalmont Wilson, of the National Supply Company, Pittsburgh. (3) William James, born Dec. 24, 1883, attended Dr. Earp's private school in Oil City until fourteen years old, was later a student in St. Paul's School at Concord, N. H., entered Yale in 1901 and was graduated B. S. in 1904. He has since been operating in oil with considerable success, making his first ventures in the Pennsylvania fields and later entering the business in Oklahoma, his principal interests having been in the Mid-Continent except for a short experience in Canada. He is a member of Brundred Brothers, a trustee of the B. F. Brundred Estate, vice president of the Crystal Spring Poultry Company, and a director of the Clarendon Refining Company. (4) Ruth, born Oct. 14, 1887, is the wife of James Lynn Mitchell, vice president of the Capital National Bank of St. Paul, Minn. She has three children: Ruth, born Sept. 17, 1909, Benjamin Brundred, born March 25, 1912, and Mary Lida, born June 30, 1916. (5) Lois, born Dec. 24, 1889, is now in France as a volunteer Red Cross canteen worker. (6) Benjamin Ford, born Nov. 7, 1891, was also educated in Dr. Earp's school, at St. Paul's, Concord, N. H., graduating in 1909, and at Yale, from which he was graduated B. A. in 1913. The same year he commenced oil operations with his brother William as Brundred Brothers, operating in the Pennsylvania and Oklahoma fields; is a trustee of the B. F. Brundred Estate; and secretary-treasurer of the Crystal Spring Poultry Company. After a month's training at Plattsburg he entered an Officers' Reserve Training Corps when war was declared, was given a captain's commission in the United States field artillery service, and is now stationed at Des Moines, Iowa. (7) Latham

Loomis, born Oct. 2, 1893, is a captain and adjutant in the regular army, having graduated at West Point in 1916, since when he has seen service on the Mexican border and is now stationed at San Diego, California. On Dec. 18, 1917, he married Jean Elenor Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leverett Miller, of San Diego, California.

Mrs. Brundred is a descendant of Joseph Loomis, who was probably born before 1590 and was a son of John and Agnes Loomis. On June 30, 1614, he married, in Messing, Essex, England, Mary White, daughter of Robert and Bridget (Allgar) White; came to America in 1638; and after a short stay in Dorchester removed to Windsor.

Lieut. Samuel Loomis, son of Joseph, born about 1628 in the county of Essex, England, died Oct. 1, 1689. He was a freeman in 1654, and admitted to the church Nov. 26, 1661; removed to Westfield, Mass., between 1672 and 1675; sold his house in Windsor in 1679. He was a lieutenant. On Dec. 27, 1653, he married Elizabeth Judd, daughter of Thomas, and she was living in Westfield in 1716.

William Loomis, son of Lieut. Samuel, was born March 13, 1672, and died in 1738 at Westfield, Mass. On Jan. 13, 1703, he married Martha Morley, who was born Sept. 7, 1682, daughter of Thomas and Martha (Wright) Morley, and died Feb. 22, 1753. They had ten children, all born at Westfield, Mass., as follows: Martha, born Feb. 24, 1704, died April 30, 1804, married July 16, 1729, Jonathan Phelps, (second) Feb. 15, 1758, Jonathan Battles or Buttolph, and (third) Zebulon Hoskins. Joshua, born Aug. 24, 1706, died 1779, married May 22, 1735, Abigail Langdon. Benjamin, born Aug. 30, 1708, died 1787, married in March, 1734, Elizabeth Mosley, and (second) in 1776 Rachel Phelps. Ann, born Aug. 27, 1710, married Dec. 13, 1733, John Root. William, born Sept. 15, 1712, married in October, 1739, Experience Smith. James, born Nov. 15, 1714, died Sept. 7, 1778, was married in September, 1739, to Eunice Strickland. Thankful, born Nov. 19, 1716, married Sept. 21, 1747, Ebenezer Winchell. Jonathan, born Jan. 23, 1719, died in 1798, married May 11, 1747, Hannah Selden. Hezekiah was born March 14, 1721. Noah was born May 12, 1724.

Capt. Noah Loomis, born in Westfield, Mass., May 12, 1724, died Aug. 9, 1808, in Southwick, Mass. He commanded a company of minute-men at the Lexington Alarm, and afterward enlisted in Capt. Lebbeus Ball's company, Col. Timothy Danielson's regiment.

He was second on the list of early settlers of Southwick, Mass., and was many times selectman. On Nov. 5, 1747, he married Rhoda Clark, daughter of William and Abigail (Bush) Clark, and she died Nov. 30, 1806, aged eighty-one years. Their children were: Rhoda, born Jan. 13, 1749, married May 25, 1769, Lieut. Benjamin Dewey, and died March 13, 1821. Mercy, born March 12, 1750, married in September, 1771, Zur Root. Tirzah, born Feb. 20, 1752, married in August, 1772; Martin Stiles. Noah, born April 11, 1754, died July 3, 1819, married in November, 1775, Mary Dewey, and (second) Aug. 7, 1814, Eunice Noble. Shem, born Sept. 13, 1756, married Rebeca Phelps in 1777, and died Aug. 15, 1841. Ham was born Nov. 28, 1758. Japhet, born July 14, 1761, died July 31, 1777. Grace, born Nov. 5, 1763, married Martin Holcomb.

Ham Loomis, son of Capt. Noah, was born at Westfield, Mass., Nov. 28, 1758, and died in Southwick Aug. 3, 1827. He was selectman for Westfield in 1803. In 1782 he married Elizabeth McCollach, who died March 21, 1829, the mother of twelve children, namely: Ham, born Dec. 5, 1782, married in 1804 Anne Burritt, and died March 23, 1825. James, born Sept. 25, 1784, died June 24, 1845; married Oct. 10, 1814, Sarah Pelton. Rowland, born Sept. 4, 1786, died Feb. 27, 1829; in 1808 he married Mary Johnson. Elizabeth, born July 23, 1788, died March 4, 1853, married in April, 1808, William Brown. Riley, born Oct. 18, 1790, married Nov. 15, 1815, Rosanna Atwater, and died June 3, 1866. Parkes, born Oct. 4, 1792, married Dec. 15, 1814, Emily Hathaway, and died Aug. 30, 1869. Allen, born April 6, 1795, died Oct. 25, 1864, married Dec. 9, 1819, Eliza Hathaway, and (second) Oct. 4, 1840, Mrs. Hulda (Root) Stiles. Fanny, born Feb. 4, 1797, died Feb. 27, 1844; she married Dec. 3, 1816, Winthrop Laflin. Kneeland, born April 1, 1799, died April 27, 1860; married May 21, 1823, Clarissa Hathaway. Moses is mentioned below. Aaron, born Dec. 30, 1802, died June 19, 1863; married Dec. 6, 1821, Sarah Maria Root. John Welles, born May 23, 1805, died Nov. 28, 1879; on Aug. 19, 1828, he married Eliza Whitney, and (second) Sept. 6, 1871, Mrs. Lucy A. (Strong) Loomis, widow of his brother Moses.

Moses Loomis, son of Ham Loomis, was born at Southwick, Mass., March 10, 1801, and died there Nov. 8, 1862. About 1821 he married Harriet Pelton, who was born Aug. 24, 1804, daughter of Stephen and Alice (Whitney) Pelton, and died Oct. 20, 1822. On April 26, 1824, he married (second) Dency

(Prudence) Smith, who died Jan. 7, 1843. His third marriage, March 25, 1855, was to Lucy A. Strong, who was born May 24, 1819, daughter of Ralph and Rhoda Strong, and survived him, marrying (second) his brother John W. Loomis and dying May 12, 1898. Moses Loomis was the father of seven children: Moses DeWitt, father of Mrs. Brundred; Charles Smith, born July 17, 1826; Harriet Elizabeth, born Nov. 12, 1827, who married Oct. 15, 1854, Sidney Birge, and died May 11, 1877; Solomon, born April 22, 1829, who married Nancy Hobson, and died in 1855; Sarah Jane, born Nov. 30, 1830, who married April 25, 1861, Gen. James Grafton Carlton Lee, and died Dec. 13, 1900; Moses B., born July 7, 1838, who married June 23, 1868, Frances Mungford; and Albert Augustus, born Nov. 29, 1840, who married Aug. 3, 1866, Annie E. Berry.

Capt. Moses DeWitt Loomis, born Oct. 11, 1822, in Southwick, Mass., was a captain of volunteers in the Civil war from 1861 to 1862, and at the time of his death, which occurred Oct. 24, 1863, at Fairfax Court House, Va., was a quartermaster in the United States army. Originally a Whig in politics, he later became a Republican, and his religious connection was with the Presbyterian Church. On March 17, 1847, he was married, at Mount Washington, Pa., to Elizabeth Scott Dilworth, who was born at that place, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Scott) Dilworth, and died Feb. 23, 1880. The seven children of this union were born in Cincinnati, Ohio, as follows: Hazard, Jan. 5, 1848 (died May 21, 1849); Stanley, March 4, 1849 (married Charlotte Louise Brundred and—second—Oct. 12, 1893, Mary Jane Moore); Moses DeWitt, Jr., Oct. 10, 1850 (married May 22, 1889, Anne W. Wallace—his name was changed by the Probate court of Wayne county, Mich., to DeWitt Loomis); Harry, July 21, 1852 (married Sept. 2, 1880, Henrietta Virginia Vandergrift, and died Nov. 1, 1883); Hazard (2), Nov. 21, 1854 (died March 9, 1858); Elizabeth Dilworth, Nov. 13, 1858 (widow of Benjamin F. Brundred); Milton Latham, Oct. 1, 1860 (died April 25, 1878).

HARRY LAMBERTON. As president of the Lamberton National Bank of Franklin, the leading national bank of that city, and director of the Lamberton National Bank of Oil City, one of the strongest financial institutions in western Pennsylvania, Harry Lamberton is ranked with the authoritative figures in banking circles in this end of the State, and at the

same time exemplifies in his individual career the characteristics associated with the Lambertons generally since their advent into Venango county. Mentally they have been conspicuous for breadth of intellect and the imaginative qualities necessary to keen foresight, well balanced with practical gifts of perseverance and executive ability, as well as rigid principles regarding their relations with their fellow men. In its application to the history and progress of the county this strong personal makeup has been well adapted to distinguish the representatives of the name for extraordinary achievements. With both the courage and the enterprise to follow their own lines of vision, the Lambertons have at the same time contributed largely to the general welfare, which, to their credit, has been included in their various plans for the carrying out of ambitious undertakings of many kinds. On Harry Lamberton and his brothers devolved the responsibility of continuing the work which their father started, and the fact that they have adhered to the high standards laid down by him and shown no lack of ambition in forwarding the interests of their times would indicate that with prosperity has come no diminution of either the mental or physical energy which has made them dominating factors in this region for so many years.

Hon. Robert Lamberton, the father of Harry Lamberton, was born March 20, 1809, in the North of Ireland, and died at his home in Franklin, Pa., Aug. 7, 1885, in his seventy-seventh year. He had lived there from 1830, identified prominently with its industrial development, its social advancement, and the administration of public affairs. But he is most particularly remembered as the founder of the first bank at Franklin, and a full account of his activities in this respect, together with a history to date of the financial institutions which he established, will be found elsewhere in this work, in the biography of his son Robert Gilfillan Lamberton. In that article also are included the other details of his life and work, as well as an account of the early records of the Lamberton family.

Harry Lamberton, youngest of the family of Hon. Robert and Margaret (Seaton) Lamberton, was born at Franklin Feb. 13, 1858, and acquired his early education in the public schools of that city. He subsequently attended a preparatory school at Lawrenceville, N. J., and in 1878 entered upon his first experience in the banking business in the Lamberton bank at Franklin then known as the Lamberton Savings Bank. He has been connected

with it ever since. In 1883 he and W. J. Lamberton purchased the interest of R. L. Cochran in this institution and the former succeeded him as cashier, joining his brother, R. G. Lamberton, and brother-in-law, Calvin W. Gilfillan, in the management. It continued in operation as a savings bank until 1899, when it was reorganized under the present title, the Lamberton National Bank of Franklin, Harry Lamberton becoming vice president under the new arrangement. In 1901, upon the death of Mr. Gilfillan, he succeeded to the presidency, which he has since filled. This is the oldest bank in Venango county and from the days when the business was conducted by "R. Lamberton, Banker," has had unsullied prestige for soundness of financial operations and safeguarding the interests of patrons, having been on the "Roll of Honor" for a number of years. In addition to his duties as president and director of this bank, Mr. Lamberton has those of director of the Lamberton National Bank of Oil City (which was also started by his father), also a "Roll of Honor" bank. As a financier his abilities are undisputed, and he has had some notable successes in other business connections, having formed interests in the oil fields of the locality and in various commercial ventures.

On Feb. 17, 1886, Mr. Lamberton married Virginia Ella Hughes, daughter of Capt. Henry M. and Frances A. (Richardson) Hughes. They have had three children: Harold Hutchinson, born Aug. 9, 1889; Virginia Hughes, born Feb. 1, 1892, who died Dec. 24, 1899; and Richard Hughes, born Jan. 26, 1901.

CAPT. JOHN TONKIN, of Oil City, has been well known in that section of Pennsylvania for a half century or more in his prominent association with oil and gas interests and the leading figures in their development. For a number of years during this period he made his home at Tidioute, Warren county, and since 1894 has resided at Oil City.

Captain Tonkin is a son of John and Margaret Tonkin, and was born March 31, 1837, in eastern Pennsylvania, where his father was engaged at coal mines for a time. John Tonkin was a boy when the family moved to Tennessee, where he was reared and educated, obtaining a common school training, and later studying two years at Hiawasse College, Madisonville, Tenn. After leaving college he was employed as a clerk at the copper mines in that State, continuing thus until the Civil war broke out, when he enlisted in September, 1861, in the Confederate service, becoming

second lieutenant of Company A, 43d Regiment, first attached to the Western army under Gen. E. Kirby Smith, through the Kentucky campaign. In May, 1862, he was promoted to captain. After returning from the campaign mentioned his division was sent down to Vicksburg, Miss., in December, 1862, under General Stevenson, remaining there until the surrender in July, 1863. When Captain Tonkin had been declared exchanged he was attached to General Longstreet's command, then at Knoxville in eastern Tennessee, and at the end of the winter was sent to the valley of Virginia under General Early, participating in the campaign of the summer of 1864. The winter of 1864-65 was passed principally in the upper part of eastern Tennessee, and at the salt works in southwestern Virginia. Upon receipt of the news of Lee's surrender his command went over to Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, of North Carolina, and was ordered to escort President Jefferson Davis, who left them a few days before his capture. They surrendered May 10, 1865, at Washington, Georgia.

The war over, Captain Tonkin came North to New York to interview a number of his father's friends regarding business prospects, the devastation and utter ruin which prevailed generally in the South leaving little promise for him there. For eleven months he was located near Wilkes-Barre, Pa., as agent of a new coal mine under development, and in November, 1866, settled at Tidioute, Warren Co., Pa., where he made his home during the next twenty-two years, becoming superintendent of the Dennis Run and New York Oil Company. In 1887 he went to Ohio as manager of the Northwestern Ohio Natural Gas Company and was in that State six years altogether, five years of that period at Toledo. When he removed to Oil City, Pa., in 1894, he took the position of assistant general manager of the natural gas interests of the Standard Oil Company, and remained in that connection until the death of E. Strong, when he was made president and general manager of the Oil City Fuel Supply Company and of the Mountain State Gas Company of West Virginia, as well as the River Gas Company of Ohio, vice president of the United Gas Company and vice president and general manager of the Clarksburg Light & Heat Company of West Virginia, on the dissolution of the Standard Oil Company retiring from all of the above positions except his association with the Clarksburg Light & Heat Company, which he resigned in November, 1915. Meanwhile Captain Tonkin also acquired interests of his

own in that line in the Kentucky fields, being President of the Central Kentucky Natural Gas Company, furnishing gas to Lexington, Winchester, Mount Sterling, Paris and other small towns. Joseph Seep, of Titusville, is president of the company. During his residence at Tidioute Captain Tonkin was engaged in the production of oil on his own account, operating in that vicinity and in the Bradford field in McKean county. He was also prominent in the administration of civil affairs, serving a term as councilman and two terms as burgess of that borough, and he has always been active in the councils of the Democratic party, having represented Warren and Venango counties on the State committee.

Captain Tonkin married Mrs. Margaret (Barnett) Ferguson, widow of Charles Ferguson, who had two children by her first marriage: Charles C., now a resident of Cleveland, Ohio; and Col. Harry T., of the 37th Regular Infantry, U. S. A., now engaged in border service. To Captain and Mrs. Tonkin have been born the following children: Frances is married to H. T. Egbert, who is with the United Natural Gas Company of Oil City, and they have three children, Margaret, Winifred and Mary. John B., vice president and general manager of the People's Natural Gas Company of Pittsburgh, married May Simpson. Wade Hampton, agent of the Hope Natural Gas Company, Parkersburg, W. Va., married Blanch Keller. Margaret Winifred lost her life in a railroad accident near Boston in 1901. Mary C. is the wife of Archibald C. Perry, of Mannington, W. Va., a civil engineer engaged in construction work for the Hope Natural Gas Company; Mr. and Mrs. Perry have one child, Margaret. Loring L., mechanical engineer in charge of compressing stations for the Hope Natural Gas Company, residing at Clarksburg, W. Va., married Norma Smith and has two children, Margaret and Mary. Captain Tonkin and his family are identified with the Episcopalian Church, which he has served as vestryman.

DANIEL GRIMM, of Franklin, has been a business man of the first rank in that city for several decades. The story of his career is a typical record of advancement through self-help, of the realization of early ambitions by sturdy effort toward progress. It is this which makes Mr. Grimm's life especially interesting, the fact that he has achieved the objects which brought him to this country when a mere boy to begin life where he had reasonable pros-

pects of attaining a substantial position and himself reaping the rewards of his industry.

Born Aug. 23, 1838, in Rhenish Bavaria (the Palatinate), on the French border, he is a son of Abraham and Caroline (Koehler) Grimm. His early training and education were acquired in his native land, where he remained until twelve years old, crossing the ocean in 1850 in order to avail himself of the superior advantages open to youth in America. On landing he proceeded at once to Meadville, Crawford Co., Pa., and was soon at work as clerk in a grocery store. His humble beginning in no wise discouraged him. He went ahead steadily, assuming new responsibilities as he gained experience and became fitted for them, and after several years in his original location came to Franklin in 1861, to engage in merchandising on his own account. He continued in that line successfully for several years, until the developing oil business attracted him from it, and in 1869 he entered the new field as a producer, in which capacity he has been engaged therein ever since. Oil production has been his main business for almost forty years, and his most valuable interests are in the Franklin Heavy Oil, the finest grade of oil known. Incidentally he has also acquired some very desirable gas holdings, being a director of the Pennsylvania Gas Company. The promotion of other business enterprises conducive to improving the general prosperity and commercial facilities of his adopted city has always had his cooperation. Thus he became one of the first stockholders of the Exchange Bank of Franklin, originally established in January, 1871, and which has had an uninterrupted career of prosperity. Among the first officers were John L. Mitchell, president, and P. McGough, cashier, and Mr. Grimm was made a director shortly after the organization. During the first year the quarters were in the "Exchange Hotel" building, whence the bank removed to the present location. It was incorporated June 20, 1888, under the State law, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, and has been operated on that basis since. Mr. Grimm has been president since Jan. 6, 1912. His fellow officers are: George B. Woodburn, vice president; E. K. Myers, cashier; and Mr. Grimm and Mr. Woodburn are also directors, with J. Howard Smiley, C. C. Miller, John F. Leasgang, W. M. Bell, Clayton W. Cone, John L. Nesbit and E. E. Grimm.

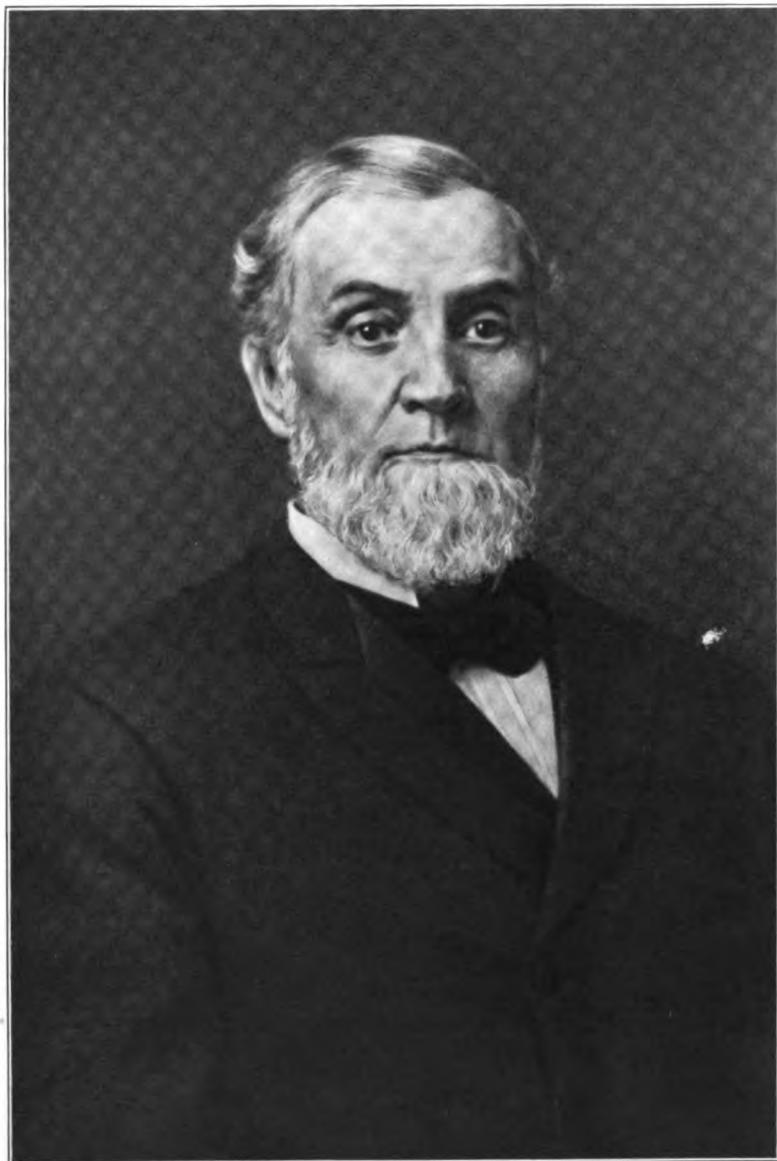
Mr. Grimm has formed a number of social and fraternal connections and enjoys their privileges to the full, having the companionable qualities and sociable disposition which

make such associations delightful. He is a member of the Washington Club and the Franklin Club, and a Knight Templar Mason, affiliating with Myrtle Lodge No. 316, F. & A. M.; Venango Chapter No. 211, R. A. M.; Keystone Council No. 42, R. & S. M.; and Franklin Commandery No. 44, K. T. He is also well known in political circles as a Democrat of established convictions, and was formerly quite active in the party.

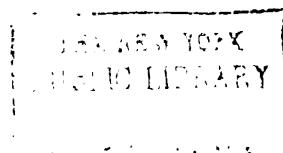
In 1866 Mr. Grimm married Carolyn F. Weyman, daughter of William Weyman, of New York City, and the following children have been born to them: Charles D., who died at Hot Springs, Va. (he served in the Spanish-American war); Eugene Eaton, who is engaged in business as an oil producer (he resides at the family home in Franklin); Stella K., wife of Thomas J. Blair, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Louise, wife of Harry W. Rowland, living in Franklin; Marietta, wife of Emile Koos, with the government in New York City; Evelyn, wife of Edw. E. Jenkins, of Pittsburgh; Lida, wife of Andrew A. Thompson, of Uniontown, Pa.; and Edna, wife of Rodman W. Moorhead, residing in Pittsburgh. The family has a summer home in Sugarcreek township, Venango county, where Mr. Grimm owns a fine farm of one hundred acres.

HON. CHRISTOPHER HEYDRICK was born in French Creek township, Venango county, May 19, 1830, and was the third son and child of Charles H. and Mary Ann (Adams) Heydrick. He was a direct descendant of Balthasar Heydrick, who with one hundred and eighty-three others fled through Holland from religious persecution in Silesia and landed in Philadelphia on Sept. 22, 1734; thence they soon scattered throughout the eastern counties of Pennsylvania. At least one of Judge Heydrick's ancestors performed valuable services on the side of the revolting colonies during the Revolutionary war.

His early days were spent upon a farm, where he acquired the health and strength which enabled him to endure the arduous duties of his subsequent life. When still quite youthful he was sent to the Grand River Institute in Ohio, and from there entered Allegheny College at Meadville, Pa., where he was graduated with honor in 1852. After graduation he went to Kentucky and commenced the study of law, and at the end of two years was there admitted to the bar. In a short time he returned to Venango county, and on Jan. 27, 1854, was admitted to the bar in Franklin, where he continued to reside until



*Hon. Christopher Heydrick, LL. D.*



his death. His father was by profession a surveyor, of pronounced skill and integrity, and for several terms had been county surveyor of Venango county. He was often assisted by his son, who under his instruction acquired great skill in both drafting and field work, and thereby formed those habits of accuracy which he retained throughout his future professional life and which gave him special eminence in land cases. In 1857, in connection with Hon. Richard Irwin, he made a detailed map of Venango county which became and has continued to be the standard map of the county. The close relations of friendship thus formed with Judge Irwin were followed June 20, 1860, by his marriage to Frances Helen Irwin, eldest daughter of the latter.

At that time and for a considerable period afterward the legal business of Venango county was light in amount and of small importance, so that as a young lawyer Mr. Heydrick availed himself of the opportunities thus given to acquire the great stores of legal knowledge which thereafter bore such ripe fruits both to himself and his clients. In 1859 petroleum was first found in merchantable quantities in Venango county, and soon developed into a great industry. His ability and acquirements then met with the appreciation which they deserved from those engaged in the development of the great interests of his own and adjoining counties. His reputation grew rapidly until he attained far to the front among the members of the bar of Pennsylvania. His practice extended not only to many counties in western Pennsylvania but to the courts of other States and of the United States: in particular his name, more than that of any other lawyer of the country, can be found connected with cases of great importance relating to petroleum, and more than any other lawyer he was instrumental in the application and development of the law relating to the many intricate problems connected with the oil business in all its forms. Largely on this account, in 1891, he was appointed by Governor Pattison to fill a vacancy in the Supreme court in which he served with satisfaction to the public for one year, and was then nominated by the party to which he belonged for the full term of twenty-one years; but owing to the great majority of the opposing party was defeated at the ensuing election, and thereupon returned to the active practice of his profession, in which he continued until about a year before his death, which occurred Oct. 9, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years.

Judge Heydrick was distinguished not only as a lawyer, but also as a man of affairs. He was from time to time engaged in banking, in the manufacture of oil into its various products, and in public utilities such as water and bridge companies. He was a member of the commission to select the site for a hospital for the feeble-minded, and when it was selected became a member of the board of trustees. While it was his lot sometimes to suffer serious reverses, he quickly recovered from them, and his sound judgment was the main reliance of his associates; and in the public positions which he filled he performed the duties imposed upon him with marked fidelity.

A philosopher has declared that law, economics and morals are different applications of moral science, which consists of a body of rules of conduct, derived through experience of our relations to nature and to our fellow beings; and that no national or individual prosperity can endure which is not founded upon these rules. The conduct of Judge Heydrick in his business relations seems to have been governed by these rules; and though he was compelled to meet more than is ordinary the storms of life, although he never attained to those phenomenal heights which opportunity affords to unscrupulous ambition, with an unstained record he closed his life in the well earned sunshine of real prosperity.

In physical appearance Judge Heydrick was stalwart and above the middle height; his eyes were dark and piercing, his countenance denoted firmness, refinement and intellectuality; thus his superiority was manifest even where his record for achievement was unknown.

In disposition he was diffident, reserved and reticent to an extent which gave a tone of austerity to his manner and repelled intimacy by strangers; but after these outward guards were passed, he became a genial companion to his friends. His temper was quick and strong, but usually held under firm control; but when aroused by fraud, falsehood or crime, it was like a mountain torrent, and swept away all obstacles to redress and punishment. His firmness was so pronounced that it sometimes seemed to pass into obstinacy. He was extremely careful in reaching conclusions, but after they were formed his convictions, especially upon political and religious subjects, were so strong that no partisan exigency could impel him to condone an error which he deemed to be material. We can not say that he was free from all the faults and errors which are common to man-

kind, but we affirm that taken as a whole his life furnishes an example to and reflects honor upon his profession, his family and his country.

Judge Heydrick is survived by his wife, who resides in Franklin with her daughter Miss Harriet Heydrick. Their family consisted of five children, namely: Carl I., formerly a lawyer in Franklin; Harriet; Frederick P., deceased; Eva, deceased; and Helen. The family are associated with the Presbyterian Church.

Hon. George S. Criswell, president judge of Venango county at the time of Judge Heydrick's death, paid him the following tribute: "It is well and fitting that the Court and Bar should mark the passing and closing of a career so distinguished as was that of Judge Heydrick. The differing talents and characteristics of men ordinarily restrain and preclude attempts at comparisons one with another. It is believed, however, that it may be said of Judge Heydrick, without a suggestion of undue praise in the mind of anyone who knew him, as he was known to the Court and his associates at the bar, that in profound and accurate knowledge of the law, precision of statement and discrimination in the use of language he had, during the active period of his life, no superior and but few if any peers at the bar.

"Avoiding the sensational and not given to courting the applause of the many, he was best known to those who met him intimately and encountered directly the fibre of his character. His was the distinction probably of no other private citizen of the Commonwealth, of suggesting to the State Constitutional Convention of 1873 one of the most important and far-reaching provisions of the instrument prepared by it and adopted by the people of the Commonwealth as their constitution. By the constitution of the United States the several States were forbidden to enact any law impairing the obligation of contracts, and the Supreme court of the United States had held, in the Dartmouth College and other cases, that a charter granted to a corporation was such a contract and that once granted a State had no right by legislative act to impair it. The convention was desirous of bringing under legislative and administrative control corporations which had theretofore procured charters with unusual powers from the Commonwealth which it was claimed were inimical to the public welfare, and the problem was to bring them under such control without encountering the principle ruled in the Dartmouth College case. While in this dilemma

and as yet unable to devise a solution, a member of the convention consulted Judge Heydrick, who suggested a remedy and method which he was requested to put in writing for submission to the proper committees of the convention. This he did in a paper of some length, suggesting a requirement that corporations should be governed and controlled by general laws only and concluding with this language relating to then existing corporations: 'I would forbid all legislation except such as imposed burdens until they should surrender their present charters, and require the common law and statute penalties to which they may be liable to be rigidly enforced until they should be driven to seek shelter under the general laws to be provided.' This paper was submitted to the appropriate committees of the convention and the extent to which it was adopted may be learned by an examination of Section 2, Article XVI, and Section 10 of Article XVII, of constitution as finally adopted and now in force, where, with but little change of language, the remedy suggested was incorporated. That it was effective has been demonstrated by the extent to which such corporations have been compelled by changing conditions and increased business and traffic to accept such provisions of the constitution, thereby placing themselves under the general laws of the Commonwealth and subject to its control. This incident is referred to as illustrating the comprehensive, master mind of our deceased brother, to which might be added many others known to the bar and the Court.

"Being the senior member of our bar and officer of the court, with a membership extending over a period of sixty years, we have been accustomed to venerate and accord to him that respect and esteem which, by reason of his learning and high character as brother and citizen, were his due. We shall miss him, but shall revere his memory as that of one who in life, in an exceptional way, adorned our common citizenship and the profession we love."

HENRY IRVING BEERS, late of Oil City, was in many respects the most notable of the remarkable men drawn to this region by the attractions of the oil industry. With only a brief interlude of conventional business life after several years in California during the most exciting days, he came here to find himself once more in the midst of big things in the incipient stage, and was in his element. None of the other men who went into oil development on an extensive scale was better prepared

to undertake such operations. By disposition and experience he was well fitted to recognize large opportunities, and to keen vision he united the powers of imagination necessary to foresee results and the energy and practical qualities requisite for their realization. His was one of the great fortunes made here. But he did not stop with the acquisition of large means through the exploitation of the oil resources. He made Oil City his home and the center of his expanding business interests, was indefatigable in founding the commercial and financial institutions necessary to the community in its increasing prosperity, and with the passing years took a deep interest in promoting the social welfare and living standards in the city and county as well as its material status. Though he assumed few definite responsibilities of a public nature he was nevertheless thoroughly alive to the importance of competent administration of civil affairs, and used his influence to secure the choice of good officials. He never spared himself in the achievement of any of his ambitions, yet his physical and mental strength endured almost unimpaired to the close of his long life, and he was active in business until two years before his death, which occurred in his eighty-seventh year.

Mr. Beers came of old Colonial New England stock and ancient English ancestry. The family seems to have originated in the parish of Westcliffe, County of Kent, England, at a place called Bere's or Byer's Court. William de Bere, of Bere's Court, was bailiff of Dover about 1275, and one Nicholas de Bere held the manor of Bere's Court in the twentieth year of the reign of Henry III. Of this same family was Roger Byer, of Bere, who died in the reign of Mary. In 1542 his son John purchased the Horsman place in Dartford, which is said to have been "a mansion of some note." In his will, dated 1572, John Beer founded four almshouses in Dartford, and devised his mansion to his eldest son, Henry. His grandson, Edward Beer, died unmarried in 1627, bequeathing Horsman Place to John Twistleton, of Drax.

The first ancestor to whom the American branch of the family can be authentically traced was Martin Bere or Beers, of Rochester, in Kent, who was living in 1486. He married a daughter of Thomas Nysell, of Wrotham, England, and had a son John.

John Beers, son of Martin, above, was of Rochester, and married Faith, daughter of John Royden, Esq., also of Rochester. Their children were James and Mary.

James Beers, son of John and Faith, married Dorothy Kingswod, daughter of John Kingswod, gentleman, of Rochester. Children, John and James.

John Beers (2), son of James, of Gravesend, married Mary, daughter of Robert Selby, of Yorkshire. Children: John; Samuel; Richard, born 1607, known as Capt. Richard; James, and Mary. Of this family, Capt. Richard Beers came to America in 1635, settling at Watertown, Mass., commanded a company in several battles with the Pequot Indians, and was killed by the Indians in 1675.

James Beers (2), son of John and Mary (Selby) Beers, of Gravesend, England, was a mariner, and was not living in 1635, in which year his wife, Hester, died. Their children, Anthony and James, accompanied their uncle Richard to America, and the former was the next ancestor in the line we are tracing. James moved to Fairfield, Conn., in 1657, was in Greenfield in 1661, and took the freeman's oath in 1664. He died in 1694.

Anthony Beers, son of James (2), was born in Gravesend, England, came to America in 1635 with his uncle and brother, and is first of record in Watertown, where he was made a freeman May 6, 1657. He removed to Roxbury, Mass., in 1655, and in 1659 to Fairfield, Conn. He was a mariner, and was lost at sea in 1676, his wife, Elizabeth, surviving him. She was received into the church at Watertown. Of their children, Samuel, born May 9, 1647, at Watertown, died young; Ephraim was next in this line of descent; John was born Jan. 20, 1652, at Watertown; Esther, Oct. 16, 1654, at Watertown; Samuel, May 2, 1657, at Watertown (died young); Barnabas, Sept. 6, 1658; Elizabeth, in April, 1661, at Fairfield.

Ephraim Beers, son of Anthony and Elizabeth, was born July 5, 1648, at Watertown, Mass., and removed to Fairfield, Conn., where he died. He had a son Ephraim.

Ephraim Beers (2), son of Ephraim, lived at Fairfield, where he died in 1759. His wife, Susannah, was living in 1760. They had a son Daniel.

Daniel Beers, son of Ephraim (2), was born in 1735 at Fairfield, Conn., lived at Wilton and Ridgefield, that State, and died about 1820. He was a Revolutionary soldier, taking part in the defense of Ridgefield and Danbury against General Tryon in 1777. On Sept. 3, 1760, he married Abigail Dikeman, daughter of Cornelius Dikeman.

Edmund Beers, son of Daniel and Abigail, was born April 9, 1768, at Ridgefield, Conn., and died May 4, 1843. His wife, Jemima

(Abbott), was born June 14, 1766, and died Aug. 9, 1848. Their children were Jonathan, Cyrus and William.

Cyrus Beers, son of Edmund and Jemima, was born Jan. 21, 1797, at Lewisboro, N. Y., and died March 1, 1860 at Ridgefield, Conn., where he made his home. He followed farming. On Feb. 3, 1816, he was married at Pompton, N. J., to Martha Stone, who was born there Oct. 30, 1797, and died Sept. 11, 1830, at Ridgefield. At the latter place he married (second) Jan. 30, 1831, Roxanna St. John. There were several children by the first union, born as follows: Sally Ann, Dec. 26, 1816 (died April 10, 1892); Lydia Anna, Nov. 4, 1818 (died Sept. 20, 1895); David Washington, Feb. 22, 1821 (died Oct. 6, 1894); Polly Maria, Aug. 22, 1823 (died July 5, 1885); Charles, Jan. 30, 1826 (died Aug. 7, 1898); William, March 9, 1828 (died Feb. 26, 1830); Henry Irving, June 8, 1830 (died Feb. 22, 1917). By the second marriage there was one child, Ruth Elizabeth, born Nov. 13, 1832, who died April 20, 1911.

Henry Irving Beers, born June 8, 1830, at Ridgefield, Conn., passed his early life on the home farm there, and had the ordinary advantages enjoyed by the youth of the neighborhood. In September, 1845, he went to New York City to visit his sister, Lydia Anna, who was the wife of Peter P. Cornen, and who took him home with her after a summer's sojourn at the homestead. Her husband had a store, and naturally the boy spent a good deal of time there, making himself so useful in selling and helping that when he expressed a wish to go home after a six weeks' stay Mr. Cornen did not want to part with him, and prevailed upon him to remain and take a regular position in the business. Within a short time he had gained such familiarity with all its details that when Mr. Cornen decided to accompany some of his friends to California in 1848, at the outbreak of the gold excitement, the youth was left in charge and looked after the trade successfully. In June, 1849, he received a letter from Mr. Cornen instructing him to sell as much of the stock as possible at private sale, have a catalogue auction of the remainder and rent the store, all of which he accomplished in a few months besides getting ready for his own departure for the gold coast. He sailed from New York Nov. 13, 1849, making the trip to San Francisco via the Isthmus, and the last part of the journey on the steamer "Panama," from New York, for which he waited at Panama thirty-three days. Arriving at San Francisco, he found that the hotel rates

were sixteen dollars a day, and he joined three other men in renting a shack with a canvas roof, put up in a back yard, for which they paid one hundred dollars a month. At the time he reached the city the population was barely two thousand, but within a year it had increased to ten thousand, and during his stay he witnessed other changes equally wonderful. The city was almost completely wiped out by fire on May 4, 1851, only a few shanties and tents on the outskirts being spared, but rebuilding went on so rapidly that within thirty days it had again taken on the appearance of a flourishing town. He and his partner, George D. Dornin, lost all they had made in this conflagration. Mr. Dornin was an old friend from New York, and Mr. Beers made his first business venture in San Francisco in association with him, opening a restaurant which they called the City Hall Lunch, and which they operated in the high-handed manner characteristic of the time, getting fabulous prices for the simplest necessities. They did well during the three months of their partnership, selling out when it was dissolved, after which Mr. Beers leased several lots upon which he put up some stores twenty by forty feet in dimensions, renting the ground floor for four hundred dollars a month, the second story for from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars a month. He and his old partner again went into the restaurant business, but tiring of it after a few months turned their store over to merchandising, doing a large and profitable trade until the fire destroyed their property and stock. The firm of Dornin & Beers was again dissolved, and Mr. Beers rebuilt the store, which was the first structure on Jackson street, continuing the business alone for a year, during which he more than retrieved his losses. Then he became associated with John S. Davies as Beers & Davies, importers, shippers and commission men, and their manner of transacting business was the method common in those days, when credits and banking facilities were unknown in those parts. Most goods were sold to be paid for the day before the steamer sailed, when the merchants went around with canvas bags to collect what was due them, either in gold or silver coin or gold dust, there being no paper money, and it was a common sight to see men on the street carrying their loaded bags on their shoulders. Carriages or drays were hired to take the money to the steamer (three or four armed men going along to guard it), where it was received from nine in the evening until midnight, and though some bought bankers' drafts and paid three to four

per cent. for them the usual way to send money was in gold coin, gold dust or bullion, in strong boxes of all sizes made especially for the purpose, holding from one thousand to fifty thousand dollars; the lids were screwed on and the boxes sealed. After securing their bills of lading for the money the shippers would return to their offices and write all night if necessary to get out their statements to their correspondents. Steamer days were the great business days, as only one mail steamer arrived and departed each month when Mr. Beers first lived in San Francisco, the Pacific Mail Company putting on more boats in 1852, after which they sailed semi-monthly. When the mail steamer came in there was such a rush to post office that the lines of waiting men often extended for hundreds of feet, regardless of weather, and it took several hours for late comers to get to the window. The popular price for a position near the window was sixteen dollars.

It was under such conditions that Mr. Beers spent several years of his young manhood. Beers & Davies rented a large brick fireproof store, for which they paid nine hundred dollars a month, and in addition to their other business owned and published the *True Californian*, a daily morning newspaper edited by Washington Bartlett, later elected governor of California, and conducted a complete job printing office. They sold the plant and abandoned the newspaper business after issuing the paper named for about two years. During this period Mr. Beers also dealt heavily in real estate on his own account. In 1859 he returned to New York to look after the interests of Beers & Davies in the East, being so occupied until 1861, the firm doing a large business as long as it was in existence.

About this time the rich finds of oil in Pennsylvania were proving to be quite as profitable as the gold fields, and in the spring of 1862 Mr. Beers arrived at McClintockville, Venango county, about two and one-half miles from Oil City, and began his connection with the oil business. He and his brother-in-law, Mr. Cormen, commenced buying and shipping oil to Pittsburgh, and the next year, 1863, they bought the property which was to yield a fortune in oil, the celebrated Smith farm on Cherry run, one mile above Rouseville. No drilling had been done when the property came into their possession, and they commenced operations in 1864, with such wonderful results that the wells yielded from twenty-five to two hundred and fifty barrels a day for a period of two years, during which time the price of

oil went as high as thirteen dollars a barrel. They refused an offer of four million dollars for the farm, and cleared over two million dollars there. It is still a paying, producing oil property, and Mr. Beers retained possession of it to the close of his life. The firm of Cormen & Beers lasted until 1876, and in addition to their oil operations they were engaged in the real estate business in New York City, among the property which they handled being sixteen of the lots upon which the Grand Central railroad station is now located, and which they owned and sold to the late Commodore Vanderbilt. Mr. Beers continued to engage in the production of oil throughout his active career, following the business for over fifty years, principally in Pennsylvania, where he operated in Bradford, McKean, Forest and Venango counties; he was also interested in the oil fields at Sistersville, W. Va. He experienced many of the reverses common to the industry, and suffered damages by fire and flood on several occasions, but on the whole he was one of the most successful men in the State. A large proportion of his investments went into local enterprises, which were benefited as much by his influence as by his substantial support. For years he was a stockholder and director of the First National Bank of Oil City, in which he long held the office of vice president, and at the time of his death he was director of the Citizens' Banking Company of Oil City. He was a stockholder and director of the Oil City Oil Exchange at the height of its existence; was one of the incorporators and directors of the Citizens' Traction Company; and was one of the first subscribers to the stock of the Oil City & Petroleum Bridge Company and as its largest individual shareholder president of the company, holding that office for forty years. Under his management the bridge was rebuilt from its foundations, of stone and iron construction, being for many years the finest across the Allegheny river. Mr. Beers put up the business structure known as the Beers block, which he sold to J. McCollum, and which was burned down and soon rebuilt; the Oil City post office later occupied that site, which is now owned by the Smart & Silberberg Company. Just before his death he began the building of the present Beers block in Oil City, now owned by his sons. He was a stockholder in the Manufacturers Light & Heat Company of Pittsburgh, one of the largest gas companies in the world, its capital stock being twenty-five million dollars, and served as one of the directors until 1911, when, refusing to allow his name to come

up for re-election, his son Percival C. Beers was chosen to succeed him.

Mr. Beers took a deep interest in Oil City and its institutions of all kinds, and gave liberally toward all movements for the public good. However, he consented to have his name used as a candidate for office but in one case, when solicited to take the nomination for school director, and he was renominated at the end of the term in recognition of the valuable services he had performed. At the time of his reelection he was chosen president of the board, but resigned after serving two years of his second term. He was a strong believer in the principles of the Democratic party, and was a delegate to the National convention of 1888, which met at St. Louis, where Grover Cleveland received his second nomination for the presidency.

Mr. Beers kept in close touch with all his interests up to within two years of his death, though for a number of years he spent his winters in southern California. He and his wife were at San Francisco at the time of the earthquake, in which they lost all the belongings they had with them, escaping with only the clothes they were wearing. He died Feb. 22, 1917, and is buried at Ridgefield, Conn. In religion he was an Episcopalian, and served more than forty years as a vestryman of the church at Oil City.

On Dec. 9, 1852, Mr. Beers was married, in New York City, to Harriet A. Forbes, a native of Bradford county, Pa., born Oct. 30, 1833, who died in San Francisco May 10, 1856. She was the mother of two children: Frank Irving, born in San Francisco, Sept. 14, 1853, now a resident of Ridgefield, Conn.; and John Selby, born Aug. 14, 1855, in San Francisco, who died there Feb. 15, 1856. On Sept. 3, 1857, Mr. Beers married (second) in San Francisco Kate E. Miller, of Alton, Ill., who was born Aug. 10, 1841, and died Jan. 13, 1886, at McClintockville, Pa. Four children were born to this marriage: Gideon Cyrus, born in San Francisco Sept. 9, 1858, who died at McClintockville, Pa., Nov. 1, 1864; Walter Selby, born Aug. 6, 1860, at Ridgefield, Conn., now a member of the firm of Beers Brothers, of Oil City, Pa.; Henry Irving, born at McClintockville March 3, 1867, a member of the firm of Beers Brothers, and residing at Dover, Del.; and Percival Cornen. On June 2, 1892, Mr. Beers was married (third) in Philadelphia to Elizabeth C. Hickman.

PERCIVAL CORNEN BEERS, youngest son of the late Henry Irving Beers and for a number of years his business associate, was born

March 30, 1872, at McClintockville, Pa., and spent his early life partly in Connecticut, receiving his education principally at the Park Institute, in Bridgeport, that State. When he entered business life it was as an employe in the First National Bank of Oil City, in which service he continued for seven years, since when he has been engaged in the production of oil, now maintaining his offices in the Beers building in Oil City. He became more and more closely associated with his father's interests as the years passed, and as already noted succeeded him as a director of the Manufacturers Light & Heat Company of Pittsburgh, still continuing in that capacity. With his brothers he is also doing business in Oil City as dealers and jobbers in automobile and garage supplies, being established in an up-to-date building with every facility for prompt and efficient attention to their trade, which is large and growing. Mr. Beers is prominent in the social life of the city, belonging to the Venango Club, of which his father was one of the incorporators and the first vice president; to the Oil City Motor Club; Oil City Boat Club, and Wanango Club. In religious connection he is an Episcopalian.

Mr. Beers married Maria H. Wachtel, daughter of Moses Wachtel, of Franklin, this county. They have no children.

WALTER SELBY BEERS, of Oil City, born Aug. 6, 1860, at Ridgefield, Conn., is the eldest surviving son of the late Henry Irving Beers by his second marriage, to Kate E. Miller. He was four years old when he came with his parents to McClintockville, Pa., on Oil creek, near Oil City, and his early education was acquired in the local public schools. After completing the high school course he attended the Park Avenue Institute at Bridgeport, Conn., where he pursued his advanced studies, and then for six years he filled a position in the First National Bank of Oil City, Pa. He has been interested in the oil business and familiar with its details most of his life, from the time he was fourteen years old spending his vacations at employment in the oil fields. After leaving the bank he entered the oil business as a producer, and is still so engaged as member of the Center Oil Company and Beers Brothers & Co., operating in the Pennsylvania and Indiana fields. The early practical experience which Mr. Beers acquired has enabled him to keep in the closest touch with the particulars of operation, even in a business where knowledge of such matters is almost as indispensable to the executives as to

the workers, and his mechanical ability has been manifested in the production of a number of useful appliances now in popular use among oil operators. He has invented and patented various oil well tools, and the Beers Brothers patent valve, used in pumping oil, is recognized as one of the best friends of the producers, who have a large amount of water to contend with, it having a larger capacity than any other valve in the market. The firm of Beers Brothers, of Oil City, of which he is a member, have also patented many automobile parts and are engaged in the manufacture of same as well as of the patent valve mentioned, doing a large business as dealers and jobbers in automobile and garage supplies. They have an up-to-date building, well equipped for their purpose.

Mr. Beers makes his home in Oil City and is well known there in social as well as business circles, holding membership in the Venango Club and the B. P. O. Elks, and serving as a trustee of the latter lodge. He has also belonged to Fraternal Lodge No. 483, F. & A. M., of Rouseville, since 1891, and is affiliated with Venango Lodge of Perfection, fourteenth degree, of Oil City.

On Sept. 16, 1896, Mr. Beers married Emma Pauline Reinbold, daughter of John B. Reinbold, who lost his life during the flood in Oil City in June, 1892. Mrs. Beers died July 13, 1904. The only child of this union, Irving Reinbold Beers, died when seven years old, at Marion, Indiana.

JOHN WILLIAM WAITZ (deceased), for a number of years owner of the Steele farm, one of the famous oil properties of Venango county, was born Aug. 13, 1858, at Albany, N. Y., son of John and Louisa (Millitz) Waitz.

John Waitz was born about 1818 in Saxony, Germany, where he grew up, coming to America in young manhood. In New York he met and married Louisa Millitz, who as a young girl left Hamburg, Germany, with a company of persecuted Baptists from Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and landed at New York in 1855 after a six weeks' voyage in a sailing vessel. The colonists were held over in New York for a number of weeks, and Mr. and Mrs. Waitz were married there meanwhile by Herr Von Putkamer, a minister in the Baptist company, which eventually went to Wisconsin, where a settlement was made. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Waitz went to Albany, N. Y., where they remained for a time, Mr. Waitz finding employment as a tank mechanic, and

in 1867 they removed thence to the Pennsylvania oil country, locating at Oil City, where he engaged in the manufacture of oil tanks and barrels. Later they lived in Erie, Pa., for a short time, returning to Oil City in 1870, in the palmy days of the oil business, and settling at Rouseville, where he died in August, 1882, at the age of sixty-four years. His wife, Louisa (Millitz), born in October, 1835, died in January, 1901, and both are buried in Grove Hill cemetery. They were Baptists in religious faith, and Mr. Waitz was a Republican in political opinion. Five children were born to their marriage, namely: John William; Louisa, wife of Austin Shanefelder, of Oil City, and mother of two children, Clarence and Austin (she is a member of the Episcopal Church); Charles Adam, present superintendent on the Steele farm who married Minnie Wrattan and has three children, Howard, Mabel and Warren (Mrs. Waitz is a member of the Episcopal Church); Mary E., wife of Otto R. T. Mundt, of Oil City, mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Daniel, who died on the Steele farm when thirty-one years old.

John William Waitz attended the common schools at Rouseville until fifteen years old, and later studied at the Edinboro State Normal School and took a business course in the university at Atlanta, Ga. Meantime, after leaving public school, he went to Erie, where for a time he clerked in the grocery store of French & McKnight, in whose employ he continued for three years. He was studious, being industrious mentally as well as physically, and the technical bent of his mind was early manifested. When only about twenty years old he assumed control of the Steele farm near Rouseville, formerly owned by Mrs. McClintock, who left the property to her adopted son, "Johnny" Steele, with the large income which he spent so prodigally as to win great fame in the oil regions until his fortune was exhausted. Mrs. McClintock met an accidental death through lighting a fire with coal oil in a stove, and Mr. Waitz was a boy in the days when "Coal Oil Johnny" was winning notoriety by his extravagant expenditures, made possible by the rich returns from the wells on the Steele farm which later came into his possession. He grew up familiar with derricks and oil operations, early gaining the practical knowledge which was the foundation of his success, and supplementing it with scientific study when he came to know its value. When but eighteen years old he conceived the idea of pumping the wells

by means of compressed air, and he studied oil lands and conditions in the industry as closely as the mechanical appliances necessary to profitable operations, possessing an all-around familiarity with everything connected with the oil business which was equalled by few. Moreover, he had an indomitable will, and the ambition and enterprise to carry his undertakings through to their culmination, a combination of qualities which gave him the courage to take control of the famous property when little more than a boy and enabled him to push activities there until the farm became one of the best paying investments in the region. He bought the place in 1878. He had the gift of turning every possible resource to the best advantage and he inaugurated the admirable and truly economical system of keeping the property in pleasing and sightly order, a gratifying change from the appearance of barren waste following years of neglect. The old wells had been allowed to run down and were producing barely enough to cover the cost of operation, and one of Mr. Waitz's first efforts was directed toward getting them into first-class condition and under systematic producing conditions which shortly resulted in greatly increased yield and corresponding profits. Many new wells were drilled on the Steele farm, where he had eighty in operation eventually, and two hundred and fifty on all of his local holdings, which he had increased by the purchase of the west side of both the Archie and John Buchanan farms, where he drilled fifty wells. He was also interested in the Raymilton field and other territories in Venango county, and to him belongs the distinction of discovering the northern extension of the Raymilton field. He also acquired oil holdings in Arizona and Mexico, having been a great traveler and thoroughly alive to everything that went on around him wherever he was. He was interested in various manufacturing concerns as well, supporting promising enterprises, especially those of local importance. His death occurred Sept. 5, 1913, at No. 142 West Third street, South Oil City. Mr. Waitz was a Republican but independent in voting. Fraternally he was a thirty-second-degree Mason, a member of Fraternal Lodge, F. & A. M., of Rouseville, and of Syria Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Pittsburgh. His religious connection was with the Presbyterian Church, toward which he contributed liberally, as he did also to many charitable organizations, having a keen sense of his responsibility to his fellow men.

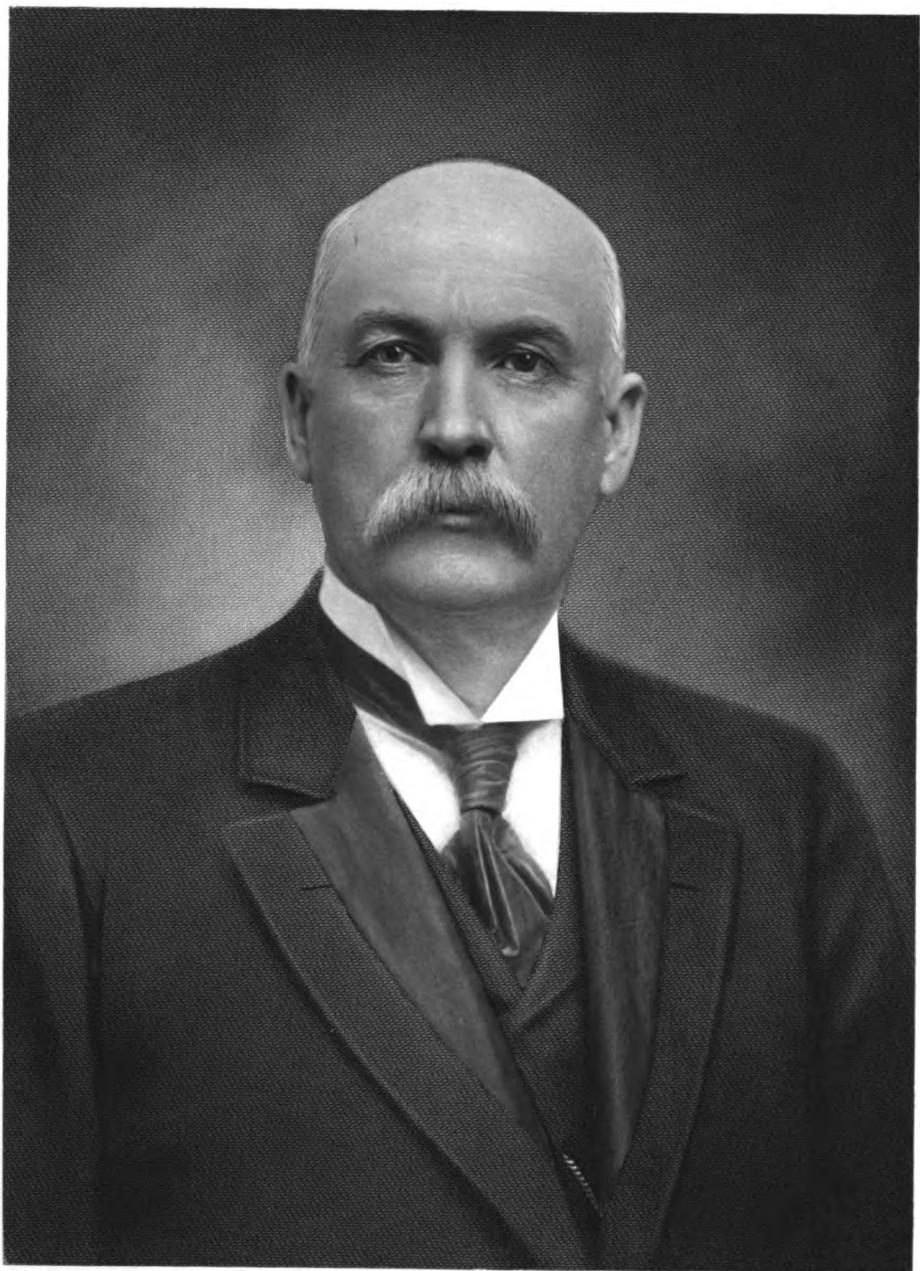
In 1889 Mr. Waitz married Myrtle Neil,

who survives him and is now residing in Washington, D. C. They had one son, William Neil, at present in the aviation service of the United States army.

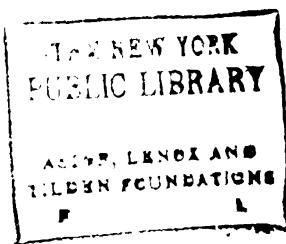
GEORGE STUART CRISWELL, president judge of the Venango County courts, has had the high honor of election to that important office for three successive terms. Judge Criswell began the practice of law at Franklin more than forty years ago, and his best achievements in life have been accomplished through the medium of his profession, in a legislative as well as judicial capacity. Before taking his seat upon the bench he was chosen to various civil positions, and in the discharge of their duties gave such unmistakable evidence of clear-cut, high-minded convictions on questions of public interest that his service in each paved the way logically for higher responsibilities. When he was placed at the head of the county judiciary, in 1895, by appointment, he gave such immediate manifestation of his fitness that he was chosen regularly by the vote of the people at the ensuing election, and by them has been retained without interruption since.

Judge Criswell is a native of Venango county and belongs to a substantial family of Scotch-Irish origin which settled here more than a century ago. Early records indicate that the name has been variously spelled, Creswell, Cresswell, Crisswell, as well as Criswell. Elisha Criswell, the first member of the family of whom there is definite information, was born about 1770 and died about 1820. His death occurred in the Kishacoquillas Valley, Mifflin county, Pa., where he had settled with two of his brothers, Benjamin and Elijah, and acquired land which he cleared and tilled. His wife, Elsie (Chesney), born about 1769, died in 1856. Among their children was Robert Chesney.

Robert Chesney Criswell, born May 6, 1813, in the Kishacoquillas Valley, died in March, 1897, in Richland township, Venango county, Pa. He was a substantial farmer, owning land in Richland township, and became one of the prominent men of his neighborhood. After clearing and improving one farm there he removed to a larger one, where he remained until his death. He was twice married, first to Mary Say and second to Hannah Nickle, the latter a native of Center county, Pa., daughter of William and Hannah (Auld) Nickle, of the North of Ireland, who came to Venango county from Bellefonte in the early part of the last century; both died in Richland town-



Geo. A. Criswell



ship. Of the two children by Mr. Criswell's first marriage who survived infancy, Elsie and David, the daughter married Henry Neeley and had children, William, David, Harvey, James and Ora. David, after service in the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war, went West, residing in the States of Iowa and Kansas, recently dying at Granite Falls, Wash., leaving to survive him a widow, one daughter, and five sons grown to manhood. By his second marriage Robert C. Criswell had the following family: William, born in 1845, recently deceased, resided many years in Kansas, married Maria Sheffer and had children, George, Lloyd, Walter and Lulu; Nancy, born in 1847, died in 1863; Montgomery, born Sept. 20, 1848, was married twice, first, Sept. 28, 1874, to Ellen Weaver, by whom he had children, Pearl E. (deceased), Blanch P. (married Charles F. Beals) and Royal G.; second to Naomi Weaver, who, with one son, Guy L., still survives; George Stuart is mentioned below; Silas, born Feb. 6, 1852, married March 30, 1876, Lucinda Reath, and they had children, one that died in infancy, Myrtle, Fleming, Nellie, Mary and Elizabeth; Mary Elizabeth, born in 1854, married J. J. Weaver and had children, Maud, Herbert, William, Wallace, Mabel, Blanche, Mollie, Reuben, Ruth and Harry.

George Stuart Criswell was born April 7, 1850, in Richland township, and was reared on the old homestead there. His education was acquired in the public schools and at the Em-menton Academy, known as Tableau Seminary, and he prepared himself to teach, following the profession for five winter terms. In 1873 he began reading law, and the next year entered the office of H. A. Miller, of Franklin, where he furthered his studies industriously, being admitted to the bar in Venango county Sept. 30, 1875. During the next twenty years most of his time was given to general practice, in which he was associated part of the time with the late Hon. J. W. Lee, afterward of Pittsburgh, and F. W. Hastings, of Bradford, Pa., as Lee, Criswell and Hastings. Meantime he had begun his public service, having been appointed March 4, 1872, deputy prothonotary, in which capacity he served two years. Later he represented Venango county for two terms in the State Legislature, and during his last term was chairman of the committee on General Judiciary. He was counsel for the county commissioners in 1879-81. Upon the resignation of Hon. Charles E. Taylor he was appointed, by Governor Hastings, as president judge of Venango county, taking the oath of office

March 7, 1895. Later the same year he received, without opposition, the Republican nomination for the judgeship, and was elected by a large majority for the full term, ten years. His reelection in 1905 and 1915 (second term beginning the first Monday in January, 1906, and the third the first Monday of January, 1916) is the best evidence of the character of service which he has rendered and its acceptability to the people generally. Judge Criswell is frequently called to other counties to preside at the trial of important cases, having a gift for rendering impartial decisions so well cultivated that they are rarely appealed, and generally sustained. No matter how great the volume of work before him Judge Criswell gives each case the most painstaking attention, his sympathetic attitude enabling him to appreciate to the full its relative importance to the parties concerned, and it is probably this quality more than any other which has made fairness stand out as a fixed element of his nature. It has won him the confidence of both lawyers and their clients to an unusual degree.

Though well occupied with broader duties Judge Criswell has always found time and energy to take a hand in the administration of the municipal government. He has served as a member of the city council of his home city and of the school board in Franklin; as a member of the water commission; and one of the board of trustees of the State Institution for the Feeble Minded at Polk, Venango county.

On Nov. 26, 1879, Judge Criswell married Flora Smith, daughter of Joseph Harrison and Elizabeth Margaret (Davis) Smith. Five children have been born to them: Chesney Harrison, born March 25, 1884, was graduated from Washington and Jefferson College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is now engaged as superintendent of a large beet sugar manufactory at Greeley, Colo.; Eliza Wayne, born Nov. 5, 1885, is mentioned below; George Stuart, Jr., born Feb. 6, 1888, a graduate of Allegheny College, taught for a time after graduation in the Franklin high school, afterward reading law and being admitted to practice in the courts of his native county, and is now engaged in general practice (he was married April 17, 1915, to Gertrude, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Madison P. Heasley, of Franklin, and they have one son, an infant, Robert Madison); Richard Lee, born July 17, 1889, died in January, 1890; Clarence Crawford, born Nov. 21, 1891, after graduating from the Franklin high school, went to El Segundo, Cal., where he has since been connected with the large oil refinery at that place. The

family are Presbyterians in religious association. Judge Criswell is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

**ELISHA WAYNE CRISWELL** has entered his father's profession, having been admitted to the bar in January, 1911. He was born at Franklin and obtained his preparatory education in the local public schools, graduating from the high school in 1902, after which he took a course in Washington and Jefferson College, from which institution he was graduated in 1906. For two years thereafter he was in the employ of the State Highway Department of Pennsylvania, but having decided upon the law as his life work he began reading with John L. Nesbit, of Franklin, under whose able instruction he was well grounded in the fundamentals of legal learning and practice. Having become a member of the Venango county bar, he also applied successfully for permission to practice in the Superior and Supreme courts, and he gives practically all his time to law work, having built up a clientele which would indicate that his services carried no disappointment to those who have sought them. He will have to labor to approach his father's record, but he has made a promising start. His office is in the Exchange Bank building.

Mr. Criswell is a member of the Franklin and Venango County Clubs, and of the Masonic fraternity, affiliating with all the local bodies and with Coudersport (Pa.) Consistory and Zem Zem Temple at Erie. He married Clara Louise Drake, daughter of J. C. M. Drake, of Erie, Pennsylvania.

**ARNOLD A. PLUMER**, a leading citizen of Franklin in his generation, especially distinguished as a financier, was born March 25, 1839, second son of Hon. Arnold and Margaret (McClelland) Plumer. He was educated in the Franklin Academy and in Jefferson College, Canonsburg, Pa., now merged into Washington and Jefferson College, of Washington, Pa. When the Civil war broke out he yielded to the patriotic fervor that was his instinctively by inheritance from a sterling Revolutionary ancestry, on Oct. 14, 1861, enlisting in Company H, 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry, under Capt. James H. Pennell. Soon after entering the service he received a commission as first lieutenant and battalion adjutant. In July, 1862, when the cavalry was reorganized, the battalion adjutants were mustered out, but Lieutenant Plumer remained with the regiment for three months longer, and on Oct. 17, 1862, commanded Company H at the battle of Antietam, although he had been

mustered out three months prior to that battle. Shortly after this engagement he returned to Franklin, where from 1865 to 1885 he was engaged in the hardware business with his cousin, G. W. Plumer.

At all times until the beginning of his invalidism Mr. Plumer was active in business and an influential factor in promoting the material and social welfare of the community. For years he was prominently connected with the direction of the First National Bank of Franklin and of the First National Bank of Oil City and identified with other financial and industrial enterprises. Clear-headed, open-handed and broad-minded, he commanded the respect and confidence of all who were associated with him in business affairs. Through well directed employment of his substantial qualities and business capacity he greatly expanded his large patrimony, attaining a place among the wealthiest men of his locality. He died Sept. 20, 1904.

From early manhood Mr. Plumer took an active interest in politics, in the better sense of the term. He had no inclination to the modern game of politics. He was a sincere advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, and did much to promote its welfare and success, his wise and safe counsels being widely sought by the leaders of the party. He could never be persuaded to take office, though such was his popularity that he could easily have secured preferment and official honors. In his participation in politics, as in all the affairs of his life, he evinced firmness of principle and a courage that never turned its back on friend or foe. His true place was in the arena of the better order of politics, in which his distinguished father had shone so conspicuously and honorably.

Mr. Plumer was a member of Maj. William B. Mays Post, No. 220, Department of Pennsylvania, G. A. R., and of the Military Order, Loyal Legion of the United States. He was also a Mason, belonging to Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M., and Franklin Commandery, No. 44, K. T., and was for many years a member of the Duquesne Club, one of the leading social organizations of the country. He was an adherent and generous supporter of the Episcopal Church. On Dec. 28, 1865, he married Rachel L. Smith, daughter of Daniel and Hannah Smith, of Uniontown, Pa. She died Sept. 6, 1901.

**KENTON CHICKERING** (deceased) was closely identified with business and community interests in Oil City for a period of thirty-nine

years. He was a man of remarkable sagacity in his life work, an organizer of known ability, and an executive of the highest type. To him is due not only the present prosperity of one of Oil City's largest industries, but many of the institutions of social and charitable aims recognized him as their founder and chief supporter during the struggles of their early life. He was always to be counted on as one ready to give his time and his long-sighted advice, and he invariably stood for the betterment of his fellow men. He was a believer in good government, better living conditions and the advancement of the younger men around him. Many an Oil City business man owes his present success to the advice and timely assistance of Kenton Chickering.

No less zealous and sincere in his efforts to place Oil City among the attractive residence towns of the State, Mr. Chickering fostered its best interests with characteristic wisdom and foresight. He had no ambition for public office except as a means of attaining this end, and his seven years as member of the select council were well spent, showing that he was thoroughly imbued with high ideals regarding the general welfare and untiring in his efforts to realize them. He helped to organize the Oil City Hospital and was president of the association for nine years, and was chairman of the building committee having charge of the erection of the hospital and of the Nurses' Home, being one of the trustees who administered the Henry H. Rogers fund for the latter purpose. He was a director of the Carnegie Library Commission and served a term as its president; was vice president of the Y. M. C. A.; and a leading member of the Episcopal Church, which he served as vestryman and warden up to within a year of his death. For several years he was a member of the city school board. He was of a mechanical turn of mind and many times was called into consultations where difficult engineering problems presented themselves.

Mr. Chickering settled at Oil City in 1873. He was born May 16, 1847, at Worcester, Mass., and had the excellent educational advantages afforded in New England, attending public school, the Allen School for Boys at West Newton, Mass., and the Boston Latin School. In 1863 he went to New York City and became dispatch bearer to General Clark, of the United States Commissary Department, holding that position until the end of the war and remaining in the government service for another year. Then for two or three years he was engaged as a clerk and traveling salesman

for the Peet Valve Company of New York, in 1869 entering the employ of Eaton & Cole of that city, dealers in brass and iron supplies. He was sent at once to Titusville, Pa., as their representative, and that year the firm became The Eaton, Cole & Burnham Co., with whom he remained until 1874, coming to Oil City in their interest. Mr. Chickering became associated with the Oil Well Supply Company, Limited, one of the most famous concerns built up, side by side, with the expansion of the oil business. It was organized in 1874 as the result of the union of several rival houses, and Mr. Chickering was one of the stockholders. At the reorganization in 1879 he was elected secretary, and from that time forward this company was his chief interest. When the present corporation succeeded the limited company in 1891 he became vice president, continuing to fill that position during the remainder of his life.

He was foremost in other activities pertaining to the oil industry, having been one of the organizers of the Oil Exchange, as he was of the Oil City Board of Trade, and every other practical project in the oil trade had the benefit of his hearty encouragement and support.

Mr. Chickering was also among the founders of the leading social organizations of the city, having been one of the first members of the Ivy and Venango Clubs, and assisted in forming the Riverside Drive Association, of which he was president for one year. He was a thirty-second-degree Mason, affiliated with Petrolia Lodge, F. & A. M., the Chapter, and Talbot Commandery, K. T., all of Oil City; Pittsburgh Consistory; and Zem Zem Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Erie. He died Dec. 9, 1908, at the family home, No. 127 West Third street, and was buried in Grove Hill cemetery. While abroad in February, 1907, he was stricken with paralysis in Naples, and never regained his physical strength, although he kept in touch with his numerous interests practically up to the time of his demise, which followed shortly after a second attack. The death of Mr. Chickering was regarded as a personal loss by everyone who knew him.

On June 13, 1872, Mr. Chickering was married to Elizabeth Hamilton, the ceremony taking place in New York City. She survives him with their four children, James Hamilton (of the Oil Well Supply Company, Oil City), Myra Scott, Cornelia K. (wife of J. V. Blake, of the Goodyear Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio), and Mary. Mrs. Chickering continues to occupy the home where she and her husband

settled forty-five years ago, soon after their marriage.

DR. JOHN R. BORLAND (deceased), practicing physician in Franklin from 1865, was born March 15, 1828, near New Vernon, Mercer Co., Pa., and came of a family of Scotch-Irish ancestry planted in Pennsylvania by six brothers who arrived in this country about 1770, John, James, Matthew, Andrew, Samuel and Archibald. Two of them served with credit in the Patriot army during the Revolution, Samuel and John, the former an officer; he witnessed the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

John Borland, the other brother who served in the Revolution, was the progenitor of the line to which the Borlands of Franklin belong. He settled in Montgomery county, Pa., and was an associator in the Mount Bethel Company, which was attached to Col. Jacob Stroud's Battalion of militia, being in camp at Amboy in the summer of 1776. He married Catherine Montgomery, and they had children as follows: Andrew, grandfather of Dr. John R. Borland; Archibald, who married Peggy McKim; James, who married Peggy McBride; Isabella, wife of Robert Porter; William, who married Peggy Kintner; Martha, wife of Robert Glenn; Jane, wife of William Thompson; John, who married Martha Hutchinson; Polly, wife of James Glenn; and Samuel, who married Rebecca Gray. James, Isabella and Martha settled in Butler county, Pa.; William, in Indiana county, Pa.; and the rest in Center county, this State.

Andrew Borland was born in Center county, Pa., and was married twice, his second wife being Gilina Dilling Wilson, by whom he had three children: Elias; Samuel T., who married Elinora Gleason, and Mary Jane, born in February, 1843, wife of Joseph W. Cowles. There was a large family by the first union, namely: Isabella, Mrs. George Young Strite; Huston, father of Dr. John R. Borland; James; William, who married Sarah Turner; Sarah, Mrs. Jesse Shields; Ann, Mrs. Thomas McGinnis; John, who died young; Martha, Mrs. Archibald Montgomery; and Andrew, who married Elizabeth McCormick.

Huston Borland was born Aug. 18, 1803, in Center county, Pa., and until about 1826 lived with his father, whom he assisted in the cultivation of the home farm. Then he bought about one hundred and fifty acres of wild, heavily timbered land near New Vernon, Pa., upon which he built a large log house and made his home, clearing his land with great labor and

making a good farm. He was known by his neighbors as a conscientious, upright man in all his dealings. None was more willing or ready to help his neighbors at log rollings and house raisings. Being an expert axeman, he was invariably one of the corner men, the most critical position on the building. In those times it was the custom to bring out the whiskey jug on all occasions when neighbors gathered together, whether for work or play, and serve the liquor liberally. Mr. Borland, noting how frequent were the evil results, had the courage to take a stand against this habit. Accordingly, when he was about to raise his new bank barn, about 1854, he said to the carpenters: "I intend to raise this barn without whiskey." They told him he could not get the men to come, but he replied that he could depend upon his wife's good cooking, and would try. In those days a barn raising was quite an event in the neighborhood, especially a large bank barn like this, the second or third of its kind to be put up in that section. By sunrise on the appointed day more than a hundred men had arrived and the huge foundation timbers and frames went up into place without a hitch. At noon a good dinner was served, and by half past four o'clock the timbers were all up, the rafters on and the raising finished. A good supper followed. No accident had occurred, nobody had quarreled, the timbers of the building fitted, and the actions of the men befitted the occasion. The use of liquor disappeared in that section. Mr. Borland was an earnest member of the United Presbyterian Church. In politics he was an Antimason, Whig and Republican in turn, but he had no ambition for public office, the only one he ever held being that of school director. The first schoolhouse on the south side of the creek was built on his farm, and was a log structure with paper filled windows except for the one at the teacher's desk, which had six 8-by-10-inch glass lights.

On March 1, 1827, Huston Borland married Eleanor Holloway, who was born July 12, 1804, daughter of Isaac and Catherine (Parcel) Holloway, her parents coming from Washington county, Pa., about 1803. They forded the Allegheny river at Pittsburgh, and at the time there was but one house, a log one, on the west side of the river, where that part of the city formerly known as Allegheny now stands. It was long known as the Robinson house, but was torn down some years ago. Mrs. Borland was a competent helpmate, with a sunny disposition and much physical energy, a noted buttermaker and neat housekeeper. Nearly

all her life she was a member of Fairfield Presbyterian Church, and died in the full hope of a blessed immortality. Her death was caused by neuralgia of the heart. Mr. Borland passed away in 1866. We have the following record of their family: John R., the eldest, is mentioned below; Catharine, born April 15, 1830, died Aug. 27, 1831; Samuel, born July 8, 1832, died the same day; Isaac Holloway, born Feb. 25, 1834, married Dec. 24, 1857, Sarah E. Allen; Margaret, born Nov. 8, 1836, died Dec. 29, 1839; Martha, born Nov. 22, 1839, married Daniel McClung; Anna, born Sept. 24, 1842, married Andrew C. Montgomery; Isabella, born June 2, 1845, died April 13, 1848.

John R. Borland remained on his father's farm until of age, and meantime was allowed the ordinary advantages for education which the local common schools could give. He early manifested a taste for study, and began to read medical textbooks as early as his sixteenth year, later reading medicine regularly with Dr. J. R. Andrews, of New Vernon, a physician of the Reformed school, for nearly three years, and beginning practice in July, 1851, at Harlansburg, Lawrence Co., Pa. There he followed his profession for thirteen years, meantime continuing his studies and graduating at the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery in 1865, in which year he formed a partnership with Dr. Isaac St. Clair and became established at Franklin, Venango county. When the Northwestern Eclectic Medical Association was formed in that part of Pennsylvania, Dr. Borland was one of its most active members, and in 1873 he united with the National Eclectic Medical Association at Boston. He was also a member of the State Eclectic Medical Society. The Reform Medical College of Georgia, which had a brilliant career, had been obliged to suspend during the war. It was subsequently reestablished as an Eclectic College, and in 1879 Dr. Borland was chosen for the chair of theory and practice of medicine, accepting the appointment, which he filled during 1879-80, being also lecturer on clinical medicine, and the faculty added to his honors as well as responsibility by electing him dean. The institution, coming thus under his direction, immediately gave promise of greater prosperity, and being an admirable teacher, with qualities which won the high personal regard of the students, he was urged to continue his work there. But the emoluments of the college chair would not support his household, and on that account he could not afford to sacrifice the business which he had estab-

lished at Franklin, where he resumed practice upon severing his relations with the college. He himself was a graduate of the institution in 1880.

Dr. Borland always took a leading part in local religious, temperance and social work besides attending to the demands of a very wide practice, and his three years of service as member of the Franklin board of health, and two years as county physician, might well be classed as social work for the community. He always felt very strongly on the subject of temperance, and changed from the Republican to the Prohibition party in 1872, when the State Legislature repealed the local option law. He felt that it was time for every advocate of prohibition to declare himself openly in its favor. He was repeatedly nominated by the party for important positions, for the assembly in 1880, State Senate in 1882 and Congress in 1884, in the latter year polling twelve hundred votes, the largest number ever given to a Prohibition candidate in the district. A few years before his death his neighbors described Dr. Borland not so much as old, but as eighty-four years young, "the youngest old man in the city." He walked the streets, case in hand, with not a limp, nor a bend, nor a gesture, to indicate decline in life. He died Dec. 26, 1916, in his eighty-ninth year. He gave the same close attention to practice at the office as in the city, and was frequently called to go long distances to consultations. He contributed considerably to medical journals.

On June 29, 1852, Dr. Borland married, in Harlansburg, Pa., Elizabeth Emery, who was born Jan. 21, 1834, daughter of Isaac and Nancy (Gillespie) Emery, and died March 27, 1907. Of the nine children born to this marriage, James Brown is a resident of Franklin; Isaac Huston, born Sept. 14, 1859, deceased, was a carriage manufacturer of Franklin, and married Anna Cummings, of that city; Mary Jane and Nettie survive; Charles Emery, Emma Josephine, Laura Ellen, Nannie Malinda and Luella are deceased.

JAMES BROWN BORLAND was born Dec. 7, 1861, at Harlansburg, Lawrence Co., Pa., and was in his fourth year when the family settled at Franklin, where he has since lived. During his student years in the public schools he gave signs of his predilection for his life work, editing and issuing a paper containing school news, setting the type himself and printing it on a small hand press, using type and an old army press owned by his father. He left school before the completion of the course to go into real newspaper work, commencing the

publication of the Franklin *Evening News* when he was but sixteen years old. He was its editor, and president of the Evening News Printing Company, which publishes the *Venango Citizen-Press*, a weekly newspaper founded in 1855, until 1917, when he assumed his present responsibilities as managing editor and business manager of the *Venango Daily Herald*. This is a Franklin evening paper published by the Venango Printing Company, chartered Oct. 13, 1902, of which Mr. Borland is president, his fellow officers being: C. H. Sheasley, secretary and treasurer; the directors are Mr. Borland, Mr. Sheasley, W. W. Bleakley, W. W. Miller, J. E. Gill, A. R. Osmer, and G. A. Fahey (assistant business manager and advertising manager of the *Herald*). The establishment is at No. 1252 Liberty street, Franklin, with a branch office at No. 214 Seneca street, Oil City. Mr. Borland's standing among newspaper men is well merited.

On Sept. 5, 1900, Mr. Borland married Genevieve Murrin, daughter of John and Agnes (McGarry) Murrin, both of whom are deceased. Mrs. Borland is also deceased.

HARVEY MADISON HASSELL (deceased), a resident of Venango county from 1864 until his death, is one of the memorable men of early fame as oil operators in this region. With a taste for the excitement and adventure that were long associated with activity in the oil industry he combined many of the traits essentially typical of present-day business methods in all fields, particularly an appreciation of the value of scientific knowledge of his property and the capacity for large ventures which often accompanies wide vision. Mr. Haskell was one of those attracted to Pithole in 1864 and one of the group that removed thence to Pleasantville, where he became permanently established. Much of the prosperity in the latter field after the first wave of heavy yields subsided was due to his persistence in overcoming certain obstacles which had caused untimely cessation of production in many wells. His sons have followed him in the business with even greater success, made possible by modern understanding of the best means of exploiting the great natural commodity which has revolutionized conditions in all branches of industry. Mr. Haskell died in his prime, but not before he had the satisfaction of realizing many of his ambitions, and he laid a foundation upon which his four sons have built up enterprises now among the most extensive of their kind in the country.

Born Dec. 31, 1831, at Tunbridge, Vt., Mr. Haskell belonged to a family of English origin settled in that State from about 1662. There he remained up to about the time he reached his majority, when he went West to Portage, Wis., at which place he soon became clerk of the court, holding that position until he left. His brother, Col. Frank Haskell, commanded a Wisconsin regiment in the Civil war until he met his death at Cold Harbor; his troops took part in the battle of Gettysburg. The discovery of oil at Pithole, Pa., drew Harvey M. Haskell hither in 1864, and he at once set about securing oil leases, sinking a number of wells, some of which yielded as much as one hundred barrels a day. His profits enabled him to extend his operations, so that he acquired several good wells in the surrounding territory. In 1868, with the decline of the Pithole operations, he located four miles north at Pleasantville, in which locality a number of productive wells had been brought in, many of the buildings from Pithole being removed to that point. The land in the vicinity was divided up into small tracts of two or three acres for leasing, some of these small plots bringing almost fabulous prices. Mr. Haskell extended his operations into the Shamburg field, two or three miles west of Pleasantville, and also had a valuable lease on the Bean farm near Pithole. He had the experience common to practically all operators in the section. A light-colored oil-bearing sand was struck at a depth of about three hundred feet, but it was so impregnated with paraffin that a coating of wax soon formed, preventing the flow of the oil, many good wells being put out of commission in this way. At first the operators tried drilling two hundred feet deeper, to the black oil sand, but these wells also often ceased to produce within a few weeks from the same cause, the wax flowing down from the upper strata and clogging the opening effectively. It was obvious that some efficacious method of dealing with this difficulty would be very valuable, and considerable thought was given to the problem, Mr. Haskell being one of the first to suggest suitable treatment. He believed that by maintaining a thorough saturation of the well with benzine or even with the oil from the upper sand the formation of the wax could be so retarded as to mitigate its bad effects. Benzine was so employed for some years, being a cheap article in those days when there was little demand for it in the arts. Mr. Haskell had tested his ideas sufficiently to give him absolute faith in them, and he imparted his views to his sons and during his last years also pub-

lished articles setting them forth, in order to interest others, feeling that the successful application of his method would greatly extend the productive period of the entire Pleasantville territory, or any other where similar conditions prevailed. He made preparations to demonstrate his plan on a large scale, buying large tracts in what became known as the Tight-pinch district, where he knew all the wells were drilled through a productive amber vein saturated with oil, but like Moses he was never permitted to enter the promised land to which he led so many others. His death on Feb. 25, 1888, occurred in the midst of these negotiations, but it is noteworthy that his ideas were carried out almost to the letter and resulted in bringing into profitable activity between one thousand and two thousand wells operating in the amber sand. His arrangements to take over a tract adjoining what he already had had gone so far that when it was purchased by W. P. Black he turned over a three-eighths interest in it at a nominal price to Mrs. Haskell and Col. Isaac Doolittle, who had been a partner of Mr. Haskell in some previous operations. The yield of black sand oil there had almost ceased, but production was brought up to one hundred and fifty barrels a day of the amber sand fluid, and the property was later sold for fifty thousand dollars. In every locality where the plan was applied the productive area was much extended, no other one thing ever devised having probably such great value in retaining production at a profitable stage all over the northern part of Venango county. In one instance (after Mr. Haskell's death) a well yielding only a barrel a day of black sand oil was shot by his son and had a daily flow of fifty barrels in the amber sand, and at the end of a year was still producing ten barrels daily. A. P. Bennett was Mr. Haskell's partner in many operations, restricting oil operations to producing crude oil. For several years Mr. Haskell was cashier of the Citizens' Bank at Pleasantville.

In 1866 Mr. Haskell married Adelia M. Miles, who is connected with several old Philadelphia families, tracing her ancestry on both sides from French Huguenot stock. Her mother, whose maiden name was Keene, was a descendant of one of those who bought land patents on the border of the city when it was still held by the Duke of York, and this ancestor was a vestryman of old Christ Church at the time of the erection of the present church, of which, as a fine example of Colonial architecture, Philadelphians are justly proud. Mr. and Mrs. Haskell met at Portage, Wis.,

while she was on a visit there. During their early married life they boarded at the "Chase House" in Pithole, then a town of ten thousand population, and this famous oil region hotel was one of the buildings removed to Pleasantville at the time of the exodus previously mentioned, the family staying in it at the new location until they began housekeeping, in the dwelling which Mrs. Haskell continues to occupy—her home for fifty years. Mr. and Mrs. Haskell had five children, Frank, William A., Fred M., Annie (who died when five years old), and Harvey Harrison, William A. and Fred M. Haskell remaining with their mother at the old home in Pleasantville. Mrs. Haskell is a woman of native refinement and broad culture. In her early years she had the advantages of metropolitan life, but she found social conditions no less interesting at Pithole, whose population included many residents of the best quality, some of the keenest witted and ablest men of the country having been attracted to the district. Her personality has largely influenced the character of her sons, who have made successful efforts to realize the high ideals of civic, business, social and domestic relations instilled by their charming home life.

HASKELL BROTHERS, of Pleasantville, sons of the late Harvey Madison Haskell, are recognized leaders among the producing firms in the oil business in the United States. The partnership includes the four brothers, Frank, William A., Fred M. and Harvey Harrison Haskell. At the time of their father's death, in 1888, the two elder sons gave up their studies at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., to assume the management of his extensive affairs. Five years later the eldest, Frank Haskell, went into the newer oil fields, as detailed farther on in this article, though he has never given up his interest in the home concern. The three other brothers have continued operations in partnership, and have so extended their interests that they are now producing in the oil territories of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia, Kentucky and Oklahoma as well as in their home State, where their holdings lie in Venango, Butler and Warren counties. In the course of their widespread activities they have owned and operated over one thousand wells, about one third of this number being in Pennsylvania—approximately one hundred in Venango county. The brothers developed their father's well conceived ideas as to the possibilities of amber oil sands, nearly all their Venango wells now yielding

that product, which has proved one of their valuable assets. As illustrative of the influence which temporary conditions have on important transactions, the brothers in 1899 leased to the Standard Oil Company a 320-acre tract for which they received a one-hundred-dollar-per-acre cash bonus besides the regular compensation in share, though it is safe to say that the cash bonus was not realized out of the profits for a number of years.

As progressive operators, the Haskell Brothers investigated the possibilities of gas production on their properties, and so far as they are concerned that end of the business has emerged from the experimental stage, casing head gas being now produced at four plants owned by them, although the venture is one of comparatively recent origin. Though they have never been ostentatious or spectacular in any of their operations, they have given substantial evidences of ability and judgment which hold the respect of all their contemporaries in business, making no displays of activity to attract curious attention or create sharp and possibly harmful changes in oil conditions, but using their means and facilities wisely toward the creation of steady prosperity.

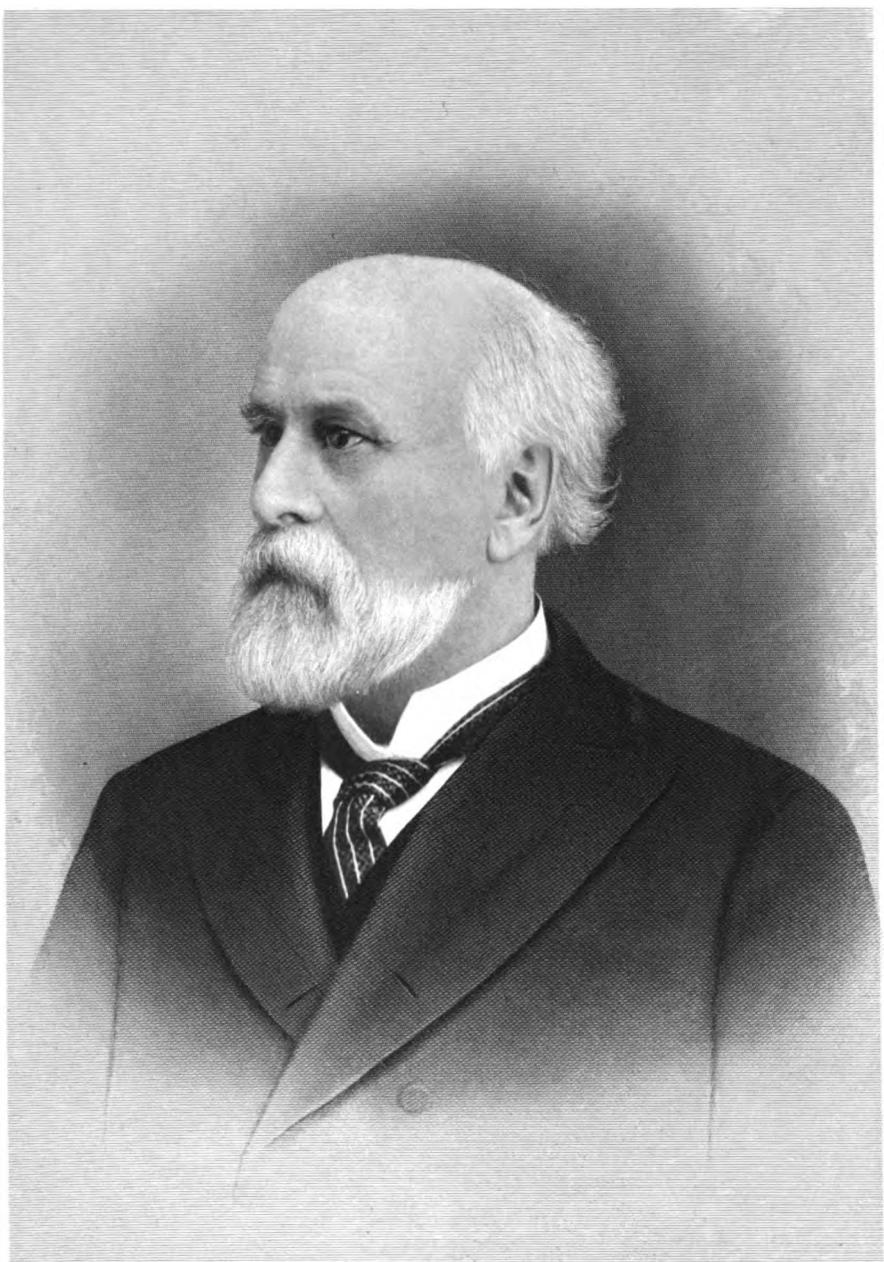
HARVEY HARRISON HASKELL married Catherine Sargent, of Titusville, and they have three children, Harrison, Catherine and John.

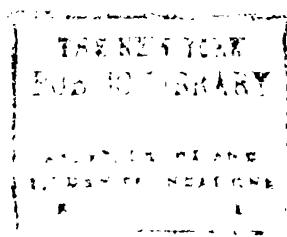
FRANK HASKELL, eldest of the four brothers, was born in 1867 at Philadelphia, whence he was brought to Pithole in infancy. His early life was spent at Pleasantville, where he attended public school, later entering Allegheny College, where he was a student at the time of his father's death. He left his studies to take up the serious business of managing his father's estate, and until 1893 carried on oil operations in Venango and Warren counties in association with his brothers and other partners. Then he went to Indiana and took an active and successful part in the oil development there, a short time after his marriage establishing his home in Pittsburgh, where he continued to reside until 1905, meanwhile operating extensively in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. Having become interested in the Mid-Continent field he removed to Independence, Kans., and in 1907 went to Robinson, Ill., to take the management of the Associated Producers Company, the producing branch of the Tidewater Oil Company in that field. He built up the plant and business to profitable proportions, remaining there until the Illinois field declined and he was sent to Tulsa,

Oklahoma, as manager of another Tidewater subsidiary, the Okla Oil Company, of which he was also vice president. This has since become the Tidal Oil Company, who are among the conspicuously successful operators in the Mid-Continent field, owning and operating about twenty-five hundred wells. The operations are conducted on a large scale and eminently sound principles, the property of the company being one of the best equipped in the business, with a stable production almost unrivaled. Mr. Haskell is the largest individual owner of Tidal stock. He is a director in the Exchange National Bank, the leading financial institution of Tulsa, and a member of numerous clubs and other local organizations in that city, where he now makes his home. He has the reputation of being one of the best judges of oil sands and values in the business to-day. Mr. Haskell married Jane Mitchell Brown, daughter of Alexander W. Brown, of Pleasantville, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. They have three children, Richard, Frances and Rebecca.

JAMES H. OSMER, for forty years recognized as one of the leading lawyers of western Pennsylvania, settled at Franklin in 1865. From that time without interruption he held a high place in the profession. While he was perhaps better known as a criminal lawyer of exceptional ability and success, his talent for forceful argument and logical conclusion making him a strong advocate, yet his practice and success embraced all the phases of the law. No lawyer at the Venango county bar ever took more personal interest in the causes of his clients, and their confidence was his highest reward. His sons could hardly choose better standards than those set by their father. They are associated in practice in Franklin at the present time.

Mr. Osmer was a native of England, but was brought to America by his parents the year of his birth. He was a grandson of John Osmer and a son of Reuben Osmer, the latter born in England, probably near Dover, in the County of Kent. About 1823 he married Catherine Gilbert, daughter of John Gilbert, and of their large family seven were born in England, James being an infant when his parents came to this country, in 1832. They settled in Center county, Pa., Mr. Osmer renting land until he could afford to purchase a farm of his own. He was a man of sterling character and deep religious convictions, for many years an active member of the Methodist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.H. Gasser".



Church, but during his later life associated with the United Brethren. His children were born as follows: John J., June 6, 1826; William, May 19, 1827; Mary, April 12, 1828 (married James Crust); Abraham and Sarah, twins, Jan. 11, 1829; John, Dec. 9, 1829; James H., Jan. 23, 1832; Ann, Feb. 9, 1833 (Mrs. Clark); Edward G., Feb. 13, 1834; Omar, Jan. 22, 1836 (married Kate Longwell); Catherine, March 12, 1838; Elizabeth, Aug. 18, 1840; Sophia, April 18, 1842 (married Edward Longwell); Emily, June 11, 1844.

James H. Osmer spent his early life in Center county, Pa. It was necessary for him to begin assisting his father with the farm work at a very early age, but he was ambitious to acquire an education, and studied evenings when he could not be spared for attendance at school. For a few months he went to a private school in the home neighborhood, and by the time he was eighteen years old was prepared to enter the Bellefonte Academy in Center county. He put his acquirements to practical use, teaching school, and thus earned enough to continue his studies, entering Mount Pleasant College in Westmoreland county, and also studying at Pinegrove Academy in Center county and Dickinson Seminary, at Williamsport, Pa. Altogether he gained an unusually good literary education, which proved an excellent foundation for his law studies, commenced in June, 1856, in the office of Robertson & Fassett, of Elmira, N. Y. Meantime he continued to support himself at teaching, acting as principal of one of the city schools. In November, 1858, he was admitted to the bar, at Cortland, N. Y., and at once established an office of his own at Horseheads, a suburb of Elmira. After several years' successful practice in that location Mr. Osmer returned to Pennsylvania, in the spring of 1865, some of his clients owning property in the oil country which could be handled better at Franklin than from a distance. His conscientious and skillful attention to this business attracted the notice of a number of people who wanted reliable legal advice and assistance, and the incidental work which came to him in this way was of such volume that he decided to settle at Franklin, which was ever afterward his home. He secured admission to the bar of Venango county in August, 1865, and soon became well known in the local courts, building up a large clientele within a comparatively short period. He was admitted to the Supreme and Superior courts of the State, to the United States District and Circuit courts, and to the Supreme court of the United States, the varied

nature of his practice carrying him into all. Mr. Osmer never allowed himself to grow indifferent to the interest of any client, taking as much pains with each case as if it were the only thing he had to do, and his confidence in every cause he sought to defend, his careful preparation for trial, and never-relaxing vigilance in points of law, were the factors upon which he relied for success. For over thirty years he was interested as counsel in every important criminal case tried in Venango county. Though he lived to be past eighty, Mr. Osmer went to his office daily until almost the close of his life. His vigorous mentality was unimpaired after years of strenuous work, and his value as a counselor never declined.

In June, 1859, Mr. Osmer married Mary J. Griggs, who was born Nov. 16, 1835, in Steuben county, N. Y., daughter of Samuel and Amy (Church) Griggs, and died Nov. 30, 1910. Four children were born to them: Lincoln, born April 8, 1860, who died Feb. 18, 1863; William, born Jan. 8, 1865, who died in September of the same year; Archibald R., born Oct. 12, 1866, and Newton F., born July 23, 1868.

Mr. Osmer was a Unitarian in religious belief, joining the First Church of Franklin. In his young manhood he was an ardent abolitionist, and joined the Republican party upon its formation, taking a prominent part in campaign work for many years. He was chosen a delegate to the National convention of 1876, but was prevented by illness from attending. In the fall of 1878 he was elected to represent his Congressional district, and, during his term in Congress, was a member of the committees on Education and Labor. He served a number of years as a member of the school board in his home town. Fraternally Mr. Osmer affiliated with Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M., and with Franklin Lodge, No. 110, B. P. O. Elks.

ARCHIBALD R. OSMER was born at Franklin Oct. 12, 1866. He obtained his preparatory education in the public schools there, graduating from high school in the spring of 1884, in the fall of which year he matriculated at Princeton University, then known as the College of New Jersey. Having completed the full course he was graduated in 1888, and then took up the study of law with his father, gaining admission to the bar of Venango county in 1891. Subsequently he was admitted to practice in the Supreme and Superior courts of the State. Mr. Osmer was interested in practice with his father, and later also with his brother, until the father's death. Since then

he and his brother have had their legal business in common, a large share of the most desirable patronage in this section coming into their hands. During the early part of his career A. R. Osmer enlarged his experience of court procedure by two terms of service as district attorney, to which office he was elected in 1893, making a highly creditable record and acquiring a store of practical legal knowledge which has been of great value. He has not aspired to public honors, but has served as a member of the city school board.

On Aug. 21, 1893, Mr. Osmer was married to Mary Alice Grant, daughter of J. R. and Martha Grant, and they have two children: James Harold, born Feb. 4, 1895, graduated from Princeton University in 1917, and is now overseas in the military service as sergeant in Company B, 326th Battalion, Light Tank Corps; Gilbert Grant, born May 25, 1898, is in the Officers' Training Camp at Camp Lee, having been inducted into the service while a Junior at Princeton. Mr. Osmer has various social connections in Franklin, holding membership in the Sons of the American Revolution; in Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M.; the B. P. O. Elks, and the Wanango Country Club.

Mrs. Osmer is a great-granddaughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Johnson) Grant, both natives of Scotland. Her grandfather, Alexander Grant, married Elizabeth Say, daughter of John and Margaret (McMahon) Say, of England, and their son, Capt. James R. Grant, married Mrs. Martha (Smith) Moore, daughter of Peter and Mary Smith. To this union were born children as follows: Caroline, Mary Alice (Mrs. Archibald R. Osmer), Emma (Mrs. Edward King), Myra (Mrs. J. T. Miller), Orville, Margaret (Mrs. Russell C. Rider), and Martha (wife of Dr. Marlin W. Heilman, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania).

NEWTON F. OSMER was born July 23, 1868, in the city of Franklin, Pa., and is the youngest son of the late James H. Osmer. He entered the public schools of the city, and graduated from the high school in June, 1886, and immediately took entrance examinations for Princeton University, where he entered in September of that year. He pursued the academic course in college and graduated in June, 1890. After graduation he entered his father's law office in Franklin as a student at law, and was admitted to the bar in April, 1893. From then he was continuously associated with his father and brother in the practice of his profession until the death of his

father in 1912, since when he has been associated with his brother, under the firm name of A. R. & N. F. Osmer, in general practice, at Franklin. Mr. Osmer is a member of the Supreme and Superior courts of Pennsylvania and of the Federal court.

On June 30, 1908, Mr. Osmer married Helen Irene Farley, of Milton, Pa., daughter of John M. Farley (see Northumberland County History, 1911). Two children have been born to them: John Lambert, on Aug. 24, 1909, and Jane Elizabeth, on Dec. 10, 1916.

JOHN GRIGGS, the ancestor of Mrs. James H. Osmer, was of Welsh origin. He was a soldier in the Revolution, taking part in the battle of Bunker Hill, and in the retreat after that battle carried Benjamin Chamberlain, a wounded soldier, three quarters of a mile to safety. The exertion affected him so seriously that he was never afterward a well man. He died about 1800. By his first marriage he had two children, Seth and Anna. His second union was to Mrs. Mary (Smith) Thomas, who was born Dec. 13, 1756, and died Dec. 6, 1826. They had a family of five children: Samuel, Polly (wife of Razey Baker), Caleb, Abigail and Elijah.

Samuel Griggs, son of John, was born Feb. 10, 1794, at Hector, Tompkins Co., N. Y., and being quite young when his father died was reared in the family of his brother-in-law at Troupsburg, N. Y. In 1814 he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, with his brothers Caleb and Elijah, where Caleb was soon after drafted into service for the war of 1812-15, while Samuel was apprenticed to a baker who supplied the army with hard bread. Returning to Troupsburg two years later, he purchased a farm of one hundred acres and engaged in agricultural work, in which he was very successful. Altogether he cleared off about four hundred acres of heavy timberland, accumulating a fine property and the means of giving his children a better start in life than he had. In 1836 he engaged in merchandising at Troupsburg Center, continuing in that business until his death, which occurred Jan. 9, 1864. His son William N. was later associated with him. Mr. Griggs had a remarkable life. Though his educational opportunities were limited, he not only made the most of them, such as they were, but also carried on his studies at night until he was qualified to teach, which he did for several years. He was an able business man, and as honorable as he was clever, qualities which won him the confidence of his fellow men in all the relations of life. He served

in all the town offices, holding that of supervisor for six years, and was elected to the legislature in 1837. The question of providing adequate educational facilities for the young always held special interest for him, and he not only saw to it that his own family was well educated, but assisted in securing such advantages for all. He was the father of Troupsburg Academy, toward which he contributed eighteen hundred dollars. On political questions he was a Democrat. He also took an active part in church work, from the time he united with the church, he and his wife joining the Methodist Episcopal denomination in 1828 and ever afterward supporting its enterprises. From that time until his death Mr. Griggs served as steward or class leader.

On Oct. 13, 1819, Mr. Griggs married Amy Church, who was born Feb. 27, 1803, at Hillsdale, Columbia Co., N. Y., and their children were born as follows: Sabrina, May 1, 1820; Harriet, June 8, 1821; William N., Feb. 8, 1823; Amy Caroline, Jan. 30, 1825; Samuel, Feb. 20, 1827; Luther C., Dec. 8, 1828; Rhoda P., March 8, 1830; John E., Jan. 7, 1832; Wilson S., Dec. 7, 1833; Mary Jane, Nov. 16, 1835 (Mrs. James H. Osmer); Martha M., Dec. 19, 1837; Emma Minerva, Aug. 31, 1839.

Luther Church, father of Mrs. Griggs, was born in April, 1781, in Barrington, Mass., and was of English descent. He removed to Madison county, N. Y., and thence in 1816 to Troupsburg, where he died March 28, 1858. In 1802 he married Rhoda Darrin, who was born Nov. 24, 1783, daughter of Daniel and Martha (Travis) Darrin, and died Jan. 17, 1861. Her father was born Dec. 8, 1756, in Britain, Conn., and died Nov. 4, 1838, at Troupsburg. He was a Revolutionary soldier, enlisting July 24, 1776, at West Britain, Conn., in Capt. Gad Stanley's Company, Col. Fisher Gay's regiment, 2d Battalion, Wadsworth's Brigade, Connecticut Volunteers. This battalion was raised in June, 1776, to reinforce Washington at New York. Mr. Darrin served at Brooklyn just before and during the battle of Long Island, Aug. 27, 1776, and was in the retreat from New York City, Sept. 15, 1776, with the main army to White Plains. His term expired Dec. 25, 1776. On an application dated Sept. 15, 1832, at which time he was living in Rome, N. Y., he was granted a Revolutionary pension, and his widow Martha was granted a pension on account of his services until her death, Oct. 16, 1861. They were married Dec. 12, 1782, and she was his second wife, the first being named Rhoda.

WILLIAM JACKSON McCRAY (deceased) was a typical member of the sterling family to which he belonged, whose representatives have been substantial residents of Cornplanter township for many years and owners of some of its richest oil lands. From 1873 until his death he owned and occupied the Egbert farm, the site of a famous oil production for many years and still yielding well, his widow continuing to make her home there.

William McCray, grandfather of William Jackson McCray, came to this country from the North of Ireland and was an early settler near Titusville, Pa., where he lived and died. His son William was the father of William Jackson McCray, and record of both appears in the biography of James Story McCray, elsewhere in this work.

William Jackson McCray, youngest son of William and Elizabeth (Story) McCray, was born June 4, 1834, on the homestead in Cornplanter township, and was reared there, acquiring his education in the public schools of the locality. His early practical training was mostly in the line of agriculture, which together with lumbering occupied him during young manhood. He fell in with the trend of the time and in the fall of 1860 ventured into oil production, striking a gusher on the well known Buchanan farm which opened the way to thorough development of that prolific field. Later he settled at Petroleum Center, purchasing the well known Milton Egbert farm, a tract of thirty-nine acres in Cornplanter township first made famous by the discovery of the Hollister well, and in the immediate vicinity of the great Maple Shade well, of which his brother was part owner, on the adjoining Blood farm. This tract once sold for a million dollars, at the height of the oil excitement. Mr. McCray bought it in 1873, and though he had a number of good paying wells there he also engaged in farming, which he followed very successfully, in all his enterprises displaying marked business ability and a gift for good management. He once owned and operated a refinery at Petroleum Center, which he sold to the Standard Oil Company in 1876. He was active until his death, which occurred at his home Nov. 26, 1907, and led a worthy life in all his associations. Long an earnest member of the United Presbyterian Church at Plumer, with which his wife also united, he served as trustee for over twenty years. He is buried at Plumer. Mr. McCray was not directly active in public affairs, though he always gave his encouragement and support to good objects and voted regularly,

affiliating with the Democratic party. Fraternally he belonged to the Equitable Aid Union.

On Oct. 17, 1867, Mr. McCray was married, at Erie, Pa., to Anna McCray, daughter of John and Mary (White) McCray, of Warren county, Pa., where her parents died. She survives him, remaining on the home-stead at Petroleum Center where they came to reside in 1873. Mr. McCray drilled eighteen wells on this tract, and fourteen are still producing, in good quantities. To Mr. and Mrs. McCray were born the following children: Clara Emma, born Aug. 5, 1869, was married Oct. 3, 1894, to Irwin K. Thomas, and they reside with her mother; they have one daughter, Wilma I., born Dec. 11, 1902. James B., born Dec. 7, 1871, died Jan. 6, 1876. Lora May, born April 2, 1875, died Nov. 8, 1877. Earl C. and Edna Gertrude, twins, born Sept. 8, 1876, died in November, 1877. Anna M., born Oct. 28, 1878, married Stacy C. Jones Jan. 3, 1900, and they have had five children, born as follows: Leal, Sept. 19, 1901; William T., Sept. 28, 1904; Stacy Clifford, Aug. 5, 1907; Howard, Nov. 28, 1910; and Robert, March 10, 1914. William L., born Oct. 6, 1880, was accidentally killed by a boiler explosion July 8, 1889. John, born April 11, 1882, died in infancy. Martha Isabella, born June 26, 1883, married W. C. Hamlin, of Oil City, Pa. George Ralph, born Oct. 4, 1885, married Florence Beatty, and they have one son, George Ralph, Jr., now (1918) four years old; they reside at Titusville, Pa. Robert S., born Dec. 20, 1887, has joined the United States service and is now in training at Camp Lee.

EDWARD P. THEOBALD, president of the Independent Refining Company, has himself had an unusually broad experience in the oil business, and is the son of Peter Theobald, of Titusville, retired after a prosperous career as a refiner.

PETER THEOBALD was born Nov. 11, 1838, at St. Wendel, Rhine province, Germany, and in his seventeenth year came with the family to America, in 1855, settling at Wellsville, N. Y. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted, and served in the Army of the Potomac throughout the struggle. Coming to Titusville when discharged, he entered into partnership with William Teague in a small refinery. Later he sold this interest and formed an association with A. D. Deming, of Oil City, being soon thereafter joined by Louis Walz, establishing the Independent Oil Company in 1882 on the site now occupied by the

Independent Refining Company. Mr. Theobald was president of the company, its success in a large measure resulting from his vigilance and ability. Though he maintained his home at Titusville his energies were devoted to the plant until his retirement in 1908, he becoming one of the most widely known independent refiners.

Edward P. Theobald was born Nov. 10, 1874, at Titusville, receiving a public school education. His first responsible position in the oil business was as clerk, in 1895, with the Evansville Oil Company, of Evansville, Ind., a subsidiary of the Independent. The Pure Oil Company of Holland is an organization of independent refiners and producers created for the purpose of marketing their products, the stockholders including nearly all the independent operators. Mr. Theobald was sent in 1900 as manager of the Pure Oil Company of Holland to the headquarters at Rotterdam, taking charge of the distribution in the territory including Holland, Belgium and Germany. The company owned two ocean tank oil carriers, Rotterdam being the seaport, whence shipments were made by canal boats, Rhine river boats and tank cars to the interior points of distribution. Mr. Theobald was in charge for thirteen years, during which time the business attained immense proportions. To keep in touch with it at all points and to give it adequate personal attention he visited practically every part of those interesting sections, becoming as familiar with the Rhine as with the Allegheny. Though his responsibilities were heavy, and he added to his business cares service as vice consul general in Holland for the United States, these were most agreeable years, but his father's failing health made his return essential, his attention being demanded in the details of management of the Independent Refining Company, to whose interests he has since given unstinted devotion. He was married Oct. 5, 1898, at Evansville, to Edith Mackey, of Mount Vernon, Indiana.

The Independent Refining Company, Limited, had its beginning in the Independent Oil Company, organized May 11, 1882, by Peter Theobald, president, Louis Walz, treasurer, and A. A. Rockwood, secretary. The site of the original works on Oil creek, two miles north of Oil City, is now that of the Independent Refining Company. It was equipped with one still, having a capacity of one hundred barrels daily, but this was increased until within a few years it had quadrupled in volume, and high test steam stills were installed. The memorable fire and flood of 1892 did such

extensive damage to the works, with losses in tanks, plant and products, that it was necessary to rebuild almost entirely, when a complete set of modern machinery was secured. The plant covers several acres, having seven stills, each of one thousand barrels capacity. Waste has been practically eliminated by the production of all possible by-products, the output including gasoline, lubricating oils, kerosene and wax. The company owns one hundred tank cars and maintains two distributing stations, at Grand Rapids, Mich., and at Evansville, Ind. Seventy-five employees are regularly on the payroll, which amounts to seventeen hundred dollars weekly. After a few years of operation under the original name the company became known as the Independent Refining Company, Limited, being thus incorporated in July, 1917, with a capital of six hundred thousand dollars and the following officers: Edward P. Theobald, president; T. B. Gregory, of Emlenton, vice president; S. Messer, of Emlenton, treasurer; R. P. Byles, secretary; the other directors being S. Messer and H. J. Crawford, of Emlenton, and J. D. Berry, of Oil City.

HON. W. C. RHEEM (deceased) is well remembered in Franklin and all over Venango county, especially among the older residents, to whom he had become endeared through the pleasant associations of many years in social and business relations. Mr. Rheem was a man of broad nature, and had many interests. A lawyer, first, and always devoted to his profession, he also acquired valuable land and oil holdings in the course of his business operations which placed him among the solid property owners in the county, and in addition to his business and legal cares found time for cooperation with his fellow citizens in the development of the community, for participation in public affairs, and for the amenities of social intercourse, making friends everywhere. His fine mentality had its practical value in the acquisition of legal learning and its application to his professional work, but it also afforded him keen pleasure in the pursuit of his natural taste for literary and other studies, and manifested itself in private conversation, in public speaking and occasionally in writing, besides his helpfulness in the advancement of educational interests. Those who knew him well could not fail to be impressed by his cultivation of the kindly virtues, and the high value which he set upon real character and worth. Wholesomeness was one of his cherished

ideals, and he endeavored to live up to it in his own life.

Mr. Rheem practiced at the Venango county bar for almost forty years. He was a native of Carlisle, Cumberland Co., Pa., born in 1834, and spent his early life there, graduating from Dickinson College, Carlisle, in 1853, and gaining admission to the Cumberland county bar in the year 1855. He married early, and in 1857 the young couple went out to Minneapolis, Minn., which was then but a small village, but of sufficient promise to offer him a good field for practice. Opening a law office, he followed his profession and also handled real estate, doing well in both lines during the five years that he remained there. In 1862 he went farther west, to Montana Territory, which then embraced a large part of the United States west of the Mississippi, and transportation facilities were so poor at the time that the long journey was tedious traveling, occupying several months. During the three years of his residence in that section he became one of its prominent men, prospecting successfully, practicing law, and taking a leading part in politics, being elected a member of the legislature. He was long the only notary public in all that region. In 1865 Mr. Rheem returned to Pennsylvania, settling at Franklin, and the same year was admitted to the bar of Venango county. He soon formed a law partnership with Hon. J. H. Osmer which lasted for several years, and built up an extensive practice, to which he devoted a large share of his time until incapacitated by illness about a year and a half before his death. When he came to Franklin the oil excitement was at its height, and the rush of business which accompanied the development of the new industry not only brought him legal responsibilities but incidentally afforded him opportunities for profitable transactions in land and oil through which he acquired land and oil interests all over the county and accumulated a handsome competence. For many years he also continued his activity in politics, being an ardent member of the Republican party and aiding in many of its local victories, but he withdrew from such things in his later years, though he never lost his interest in public matters.

Mr. Rheem made a success of both his law practice and his business operations, and won the respect of his associates by his strict integrity and uprightness in all his dealings. He became noted for his faculty of deciding quickly and accurately upon any question which came up for his consideration, developed

no doubt by long experience with legal matters and the necessities of business during a time when prompt action made all the difference between success and failure. He was trusted by all with whom he came into contact. But it was the traits which endeared him to his fellow men in a personal sense for which he was best known, and which were usually quoted as his most prominent characteristics. In view of his abilities and industrious attention to the necessary things his material success was taken for granted. That he found time to help others and make the world a pleasanter place to live in—these were the adornments of his character. His own fondness for study and the pleasures of the mind naturally led him to encourage education and the providing of educational privileges for all, and he kept in close touch with public school work and teachers in Franklin besides supporting all the measures designed for their benefit. He liked to visit the schools. Mr. Rheem had a strong sense of man's responsibility toward his fellows in all matters and never evaded what he considered to be his own duty in this respect, whether in the domestic or other social relations, the performance of public duties or the obligations he felt due from him to those less fortunate than himself. Though everywhere accorded the deference due to his superiority he was unassuming and unostentatious, his genial manners showing cordial sympathy, further expressed in the generous aid which he gave to all good things. He was independent in his views, favoring any movement which appealed to his sense of right regardless of its popularity or unpopularity with others, and showing a liberality of thought toward those who disagreed with him which won their friendly personal regard without reference to the subject of difference. He enjoyed contemplating the advances of civilization, and feeling that he could have a part in the work and he was always generous in his appreciation of what others accomplished. The spirit he invariably infused into those associated with him in any enterprise was worth more than any material help he could give. A delightful conversationalist, he was also a talented public speaker, either in court or before general audiences. His familiarity with literature and history included a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures, and his reverence for the principles of Christianity led him to respect any belief if it was sincere. His writings include a metrical blank verse translation of certain portions of the New Testament, of which one critic said: "It had a subtle beauty and charm

which caused me to regret greatly that it was only a fragment."

Mr. Rheem kept up his varied activities until eighteen months before his death, when a stroke of apoplexy enfeebled his health, though he recovered sufficiently to be about up to within two weeks of his death, which occurred Nov. 21, 1903, at his home in Franklin. He was in his seventieth year. Mr. Rheem was buried in the Franklin cemetery. At the time of his decease he was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities, and of the Venango Bar Association.

Mr. Rheem married, at Carlisle, Pa., Anna C. Burkholder, who was born there, daughter of Henry L. and Margaret (Foulk) Burkholder and granddaughter of Gen. Willis Foulk. Her early life was spent in that Cumberland valley town, and she accompanied her husband to the West shortly after their marriage. When he came to settle at Franklin in 1865 the town was so crowded that neither house nor lodgings could be secured there, so they boarded at Utica until quarters could be had in Franklin, where they spent the rest of their lives. Their home was a social center whose hospitality many remember with pleasure. Mrs. Rheem was as active in all good works as her husband, and made as many friends, and to the close of her long life never lost her interest in their welfare or in the events of the day. She had many interesting recollections of the early days in her native section of Pennsylvania and of the Civil war period and the oil boom, as well as other important happenings of her time.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Rheem: Harry died when nineteen years old; Margaret died in infancy; William S., of California, is president of the Standard Oil Company of that State, and resides at Oakland; Alice, who is unmarried, lives in the old home at No. 922 Elk street, Franklin; Carlisle died at the age of twenty-eight years; Elizabeth died in infancy; Albert K., who is engaged in the production of oil, resides at Franklin; Anna, widow of Charles K. Brown, resides with her sister Alice at the old homestead.

H. H. STEPHENSON, of Oil City, has lived in retirement since he gave up the presidency of the Oil City National Bank, with whose fortunes he was associated for over forty-five years. The upbuilding of this institution and its development as a leading financial house in this part of Pennsylvania may be considered his life work, and viewed either as a separate achievement or a part of the advance

which has made Oil City famous as a business center is sufficient to entitle him to a place with those progressive spirits whose efforts brought the city to prominent and influential position. He still remains a director of the bank, of which one of his sons is now teller, and others are holding responsible positions in various parts of the country.

Mr. Stephenson came to Oil City in 1865 to become cashier of the bank, then known as the Oil City Savings Bank, and spent the rest of his active life in its service. Born Nov. 18, 1842, in Pittsburgh, Pa., he grew up in his native city and acquired his education in its public schools, attending high school until he commenced to earn his living. His first employment was as clerk in a mercantile house, and he was so engaged for five years, when he began his connection with the banking business in the capacity of teller in the Union National Bank of Pittsburgh. He remained there until he moved to Oil City, in December, 1865, to assume the duties of cashier in the newly organized Savings Bank, opened Aug. 15, 1865. It was founded by George W. Cochran (the first president), T. B. Porteous, James Miller, William Parker, W. J. Kountz, William Phillips, W. B. Riddle, John Mawhinney and William Thompson, and S. D. Herron was the first cashier, resigning shortly afterward. Mr. Stephenson held the position for thirty-eight years, until he became president, directing the affairs of the bank as chief executive until 1911, since when he has been a member of the board of directors. Nothing could better show the appreciation of his associates for his undeviating loyalty to the best interests of the bank and his ability to conserve them than a quotation from its monthly magazine, "The Bank Depositor," issue of September, 1915: "To one official more than any other is due the long continued prosperity of this institution, Mr. H. H. Stephenson, who was elected cashier in December, 1865, succeeding Mr. S. D. Herron, Jr., and serving continuously for almost fifty years, thirty-eight years as cashier, eight years as president, and since 1911 as a member of the board of directors," his fellow members being: George N. Reed, who is also president; H. G. Rush and W. O. Innis, vice presidents; J. B. Crawford, W. Raymond Cross, H. H. James, W. O. Platt, E. W. Chase, Edward Seiderman and H. J. Crawford. The present cashier is Fred C. McGill; assistant cashier, J. L. Vaughan; teller, J. G. Stephenson. On Jan. 1, 1900, the bank was reorganized as the Oil City National Bank, under which title it has since been operated. Its

original capital of fifty thousand dollars, for which each stockholder was individually liable, has been increased to one hundred thousand dollars. The bank is proud of the fact that its stability has never been questioned, and though it has been among the most progressive of local financial institutions its business has been conducted carefully and conservatively, with the funds of its depositors thoroughly safeguarded. Its patrons have had every accommodation and courtesy possible, and it has the distinction of paying four per cent. on savings deposits and certificates of deposit, a practical illustration of the possibilities of sound management and a liberal policy toward depositors. All of the men connected with the bank, officers and directors, have been business men of recognized standing in the community in other lines as well. The bank moved from its original location on Main street, near Bridge street, to quarters in the Wurster meat market building on Main street, about 1874 securing the location at the corner of Elm and Center streets where it now occupies its own building.

Mr. Stephenson has always been a man of quiet habits and domestic tastes, his chief activity outside of business being in the Second Presbyterian Church, which he joined when it was a struggling little congregation, taking a leading part in church and Sunday school work during its formative years. During the Civil war he served nine months in Company E, 123d Pennsylvania Volunteers, which he joined at Pittsburgh. He held the rank of lieutenant.

By his marriage to Margaret A. Moorhead, daughter of William Moorhead, of Indiana, Pa., Mr. Stephenson has the following children: Frank M., who is now a member of R. B. Hutchinson & Company, bond firm in Pittsburgh, Pa.; William B., a member of the firm of the Hew Chemical Company, in Philadelphia, Pa.; G. Albert, now of Cleveland, Ohio, in charge of the bond department of the Federal Reserve Bank of that city; Ellen E., wife of Frederick Fair, treasurer of the Oil City Trust Company; Harry S., of Oil City; Charlotte I., wife of Robert S. Fletcher, of Amherst, Mass., and John G., of Oil City. The family home is at No. 121 West Third street, Oil City. Mr. Stephenson is as highly esteemed in his personal relations as in business circles.

GEORGE N. REED, since 1913 president of the Oil City National Bank, has had a successful business career in that association as in his previous connections, which have not only been highly creditable to himself but also

valuable to the general situation in his community. Coming here in 1877 as a young man, he has become thoroughly identified with the business and civic progress of the city, prospering in his commercial and financial undertakings and incidentally working for social betterment and material improvement. Besides a long association with the Oil Well Supply Company he has been engaged in the production of oil on his own account, and still retains his interests in both, while carrying his responsibilities as head of the bank.

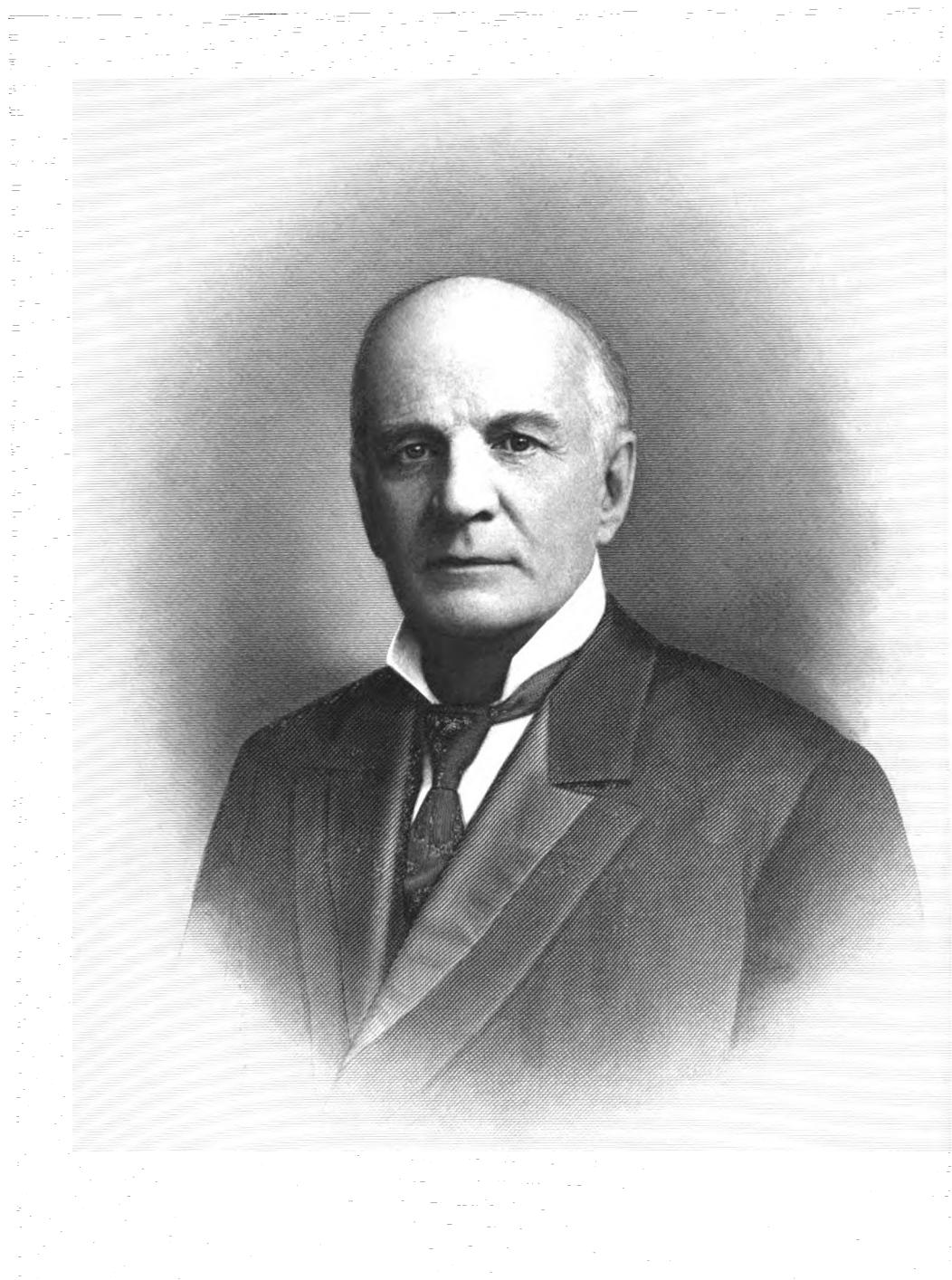
Mr. Reed is a native of Mercer county, Pa., son of the late John P. Reed, who lived and died in that county, where all his active years were spent. He had the best educational facilities afforded by the public schools, attending high school, and in 1877 obtained a position at Oil City with the Eaton, Cole & Burnham Company, whose establishment eventually became the Oil City branch of the large Pittsburgh concern known as the Oil Well Supply Company, manufacturers and jobbers of oil and artesian well supplies. He was first engaged as purchasing agent, and given other responsibilities as his familiarity with the business increased, remaining with the house for thirty-five years and being manager of the Oil Well Supply Company when he severed his connection to accept the presidency of the Oil City National Bank, to which most of his time is now devoted. Mr. Reed has been associated with the bank since 1900, and when the death of George W. Parker, in 1913, left the presidency vacant he was considered the best man for the position, his success in other lines giving evidence that he possessed the substantial qualities required. His good judgment and conscientious desire to discharge his duties to the best of his ability have been recognized in every move that he has made in the direction of the affairs of the bank, which are in the excellent condition and upon the solid basis that have been the pride of its owners from the beginning. The favorable reputation which he has always borne has been augmented greatly by his capable services in his present capacity.

The Oil City National Bank was started in August, 1865, as the Oil City Savings Bank, and its first president was George W. Cochran. His successors have all been men of prominence in financial affairs, namely: William Thompson, John Mawhinney, William Parker, Amos P. Dale, H. H. Stephenson, George W. Parker and George N. Reed. The present officials and directors are among the best known business men of Oil City, viz.: Vice presidents, H. G. Rush and W. O. Innis, the for-

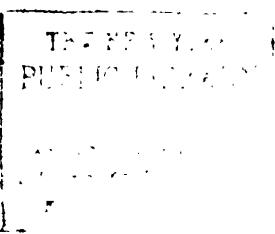
mer proprietor of the Rush Barrel Works, the latter a substantial oil producer; directors, J. B. Crawford, oil and gas producer; W. Raymond Cross, president of the United Natural Gas Company; H. H. James, manager of the Oil Well Supply Company's store; W. O. Platt, president of the Reid Gas Engine Company; E. W. Chase, treasurer of the Empire Oil Works; Edward Seiderman, oil producer; H. H. Stephenson, former president of the bank; and H. J. Crawford, president of the First National Bank of Emlenton, this county. The present cashier is Fred C. McGill; assistant cashier, J. L. Vaughan; teller, J. G. Stephenson. The bank was reorganized under its present title Jan. 1, 1900. The capital is one hundred thousand dollars, and it occupies its own building at the corner of Elm and Center streets, acquiring the site about 1874.

Mr. Reed has always been public-spirited in matters affecting the general welfare, and his most conspicuous services to the municipality have been as member of the school board. He holds membership in the Second Presbyterian Church, and is a Mason in fraternal affiliation, belonging to Petrolia Lodge No. 363, F. & A. M.; Oil City Chapter, No. 236, R. A. M.; Talbot Commandery No. 43, K. T.; Venango Lodge of Perfection; Pittsburgh Consistory, and Zem Zem Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. Mr. Reed married Fanny Perkins, and they are the parents of three children, Frederick L. (deceased), Kenton C. and Truman P.

JAMES DENTON HANCOCK, now the senior member of the Venango county bar, has led a busy life, well varied with the duties of his profession, the management of his business interests, the obligations of numerous social and political connections, and the responsibilities he has assumed voluntarily as his share in the promotion of progress, local or general, which he has aided in many ways. Endowed with the faculty of broad comprehension and great executive talent, Mr. Hancock has handled his complex problems with consummate ability. But their magnitude has never lessened, for him, the importance of local enterprises, of any nature, to which he has given just as generously of his time, means and attention. His interests have expanded, yet he has never found it necessary or desirable to sever the ties which bound him to his home community, and the community has been properly grateful. Having completed his eightieth year, he has had the reward which many who plan well for the future never reap, the pleas-



James Denton Hancock



ure of witnessing the fruition of the early activities in which he put his faith.

This Hancock family has been in Pennsylvania for one hundred and twenty-five years, Jonathan Hancock, the grandfather of James Denton Hancock, having come to Wilkes-Barre about 1790-91, when twenty-three or twenty-four years old. He was born at Snowhill, Md. Coming north he stopped at Harrisburg and married Catharine Young, a descendant maternally of the Foster, Redsecker and Montgomery families. In his early days he was a school teacher, but later became a business man, engaged in various undertakings, being a director of the Branch National Bank at Wilkes-Barre (the first of its kind in the United States), a director of the Bridge Company there, and at one time postmaster. He was a large landowner, and an extensive dealer (for the time) in real estate. The character of his activities would indicate an energetic and progressive temperament. He died at Wilkes-Barre in 1830. He was the father of thirteen children, and we have record of the following: By first wife: (1) John died unmarried. (2) Catharine married Hon. David Scott, of Wilkes-Barre, judge and member of Congress. (3) James. (4) William, who served as judge of the Luzerne County courts, married Laura Smith, of Wilkes-Barre, and (second) Elizabeth Denison. (5) Nancy married James Denton Haff, of Wilkes-Barre and New York. By the second wife, Mary, daughter of William Wright, of Wilkes-Barre, there were: George, Charles, Frederick, John, Martha (wife of James Perkins Atherton, of Wyoming), and Mary, who died unmarried.

James Hancock, born at Wilkes-Barre in 1793, lived there until 1827, at which time he removed to the farm at Plains, in the Wyoming Valley, previously owned by his father, who purchased three farms for him. This property was located about two miles from Wilkes-Barre, and was underlaid with valuable coal deposits. He resided there a number of years, all his children being born at that place. After his second marriage he removed to Wilkes-Barre, and later to Wyoming, Luzerne county, where he died in 1880 at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. He had lived in retirement for twenty years previously. Mr. Hancock first married Mary Perkins, daughter of Squire David and Sarah (Ferrier) Perkins, of Wyoming, and after her death wedded Elizabeth Hibler. There were no children by the second union.

John Perkins, emigrant ancestor of this Perkins family, came from England in 1630

and at first located in Boston, for about two years. He made his permanent residence at Ipswich, Mass. His family settled in different parts of the East, the son from whom the mother of J. D. Hancock was descended settling at Hartford, Connecticut.

David Perkins, father of Mrs. Hancock, was a son of John Perkins, from Plainfield, Windham Co., Conn., who was a member of the first school committee of Westmoreland (Pa.) and a Revolutionary soldier. He was killed about the time of the Wyoming massacre, under conditions which are noted in Miner's History. David Perkins was for many years justice of the peace in Kingston township, Luzerne county, and reputed to be the largest landowner in Wyoming Valley, where the family were pioneer settlers. His house, by some believed to antedate the massacre, and commonly called the oldest house in the Wyoming Valley, is still standing opposite the intersection of Tenth street, at Wyoming avenue, Wyoming—Wyoming borough being located on a part of Squire Perkins's estate. His wife, Sarah (Ferrier), was a descendant of Thomas Ferrier, who came to America with a company of his relatives under the leadership of their kinsman, Colonel Clinton, ancestor of George Clinton, vice president of the United States, and DeWitt Clinton, governor of New York, as well as James Clinton, major general in the Continental army. Thomas Ferrier, born of French Huguenot stock, lived on Long Island and later in Orange county, N. Y. Through Sarah (Ferrier) Perkins's sister he is the ancestor of descendants of Benjamin Carpenter. Among the other children of David and Sarah (Ferrier) Perkins were: David, captain in the United States army; James, who removed to New York; Zibia, who married Elisha Atherton, of Wyoming; Martha, wife of Giles Slocum; and Jane, who married Balsas Carpenter. Aaron Perkins, brother of Squire David, was a colonel in the Revolution.

Mrs. Mary (Perkins) Hancock died when about forty years old, the mother of the following children: (1) Jonathan, born 1829, died 1891, married Elizabeth Reynolds, of Peoria, Ill., where he was engaged in business, being a member of the grain shipping firm now known as Hancock & Co., of which his younger brother, Col. Elisha A. Hancock, was the head. (2) William, born at Plains, Pa., Aug. 2, 1831, died in Wilkes-Barre Feb. 8, 1906. During his early manhood and until middle life he lived in California, and later resided in Wyoming, where he was engaged in various business

enterprises, being one of the founders of the Wyoming Shovel Works and of the Wyoming terra cotta works. He was also interested in lumbering and as proprietor of a foundry and plow factory, and of general supply stores. He was the first burgess of Wyoming borough and later a member of the borough council. On Sept. 25, 1873, he married Isabella Brown Barker, daughter of Rev. Abel Gurn Barker by his second wife Phoebe Ann (Brown), and they had children, Anna Mary, William James and Louise Barker. (3) David Perkins, born 1833, died May 21, 1880. He graduated from West Point Academy in 1854, and on July 1st of that year was made brevet second lieutenant, 2d Infantry; second lieutenant, March 3, 1855; first lieutenant, April 20, 1858; captain, May 27, 1861; major, 2d Infantry, July 2, 1863, and brevet lieutenant colonel, U. S. A., March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service in the battle of Gettysburg, during which engagement he acted as general. He married Maria Madison, of Florida. (4) Sarah Perkins, born 1833, died 1881, was the wife of Dr. Benjamin Fullerton Miles, of Peoria, Ill. (5) James Denton, born June 9, 1837, is mentioned below. (6) Elisha Atherton, born 1840, married Julia Reichard, (second) Lydia Woodward and (third) Rose Grier Simonton. He was captain and later major in the Cameron Cavalry, U. S. V., Pa., 1861-65. He lived and died in Philadelphia, where he was in the grain business.

James Denton Hancock, born June 9, 1837, in the Wyoming Valley, in what was afterward Plains township, Luzerne county, grew up there and acquired his early education in the common schools and Wyoming Seminary. In 1855 he entered Kenyon College, at Gambier, Ohio, graduating therefrom in 1859 with the degree of B. A., and subsequently having conferred upon him the degree of M. A. and the honorary LL. D.; he delivered the Phi Beta Kappa address in 1872 and the alumni address in 1899. Becoming a tutor in the Western University upon the completion of his college course, he became the professor of mathematics until 1861, and while engaged in teaching took up the study of law with William Bakewell, of Pittsburgh. Having gained admission to the bar in Allegheny county in 1862 he practiced in Pittsburgh for about three years, in 1865 removing to Franklin, where he made a permanent location. He applied immediately for permission to practice at the Venango county bar, which he received the fourth Monday of January. For ten years he was solicitor for the Allegheny Valley Railroad

Company, appointed in 1877, and in 1878 he was appointed attorney for the Pittsburgh, Titusville & Buffalo Railroad Company, serving as such until 1888, when he became general solicitor for the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad Company, with headquarters at Buffalo, N. Y. He resigned the latter in December, 1891. Mr. Hancock has had cases in almost all of the courts of western Pennsylvania, as well as in many in the eastern portion. Although he retired from active business in 1896 he still retains a number of important associations, owning valuable oil lands in Venango county and being a director of the Fayette Gas Company and of the Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula Railroad Company; for some years he was a director of the Exchange Bank of Franklin. He is the owner of the Hancock block, located at the corner of Twelfth and Liberty streets, Franklin, originally known as the Plumer block and later as the Savings Bank block until it came into Mr. Hancock's possession. He was the first tenant in that block, having his law offices there for many years.

In 1881 Mr. Hancock was appointed by Governor Hoyt one of the trustees of the State Hospital for the Insane at Warren, Pa., and served thirteen years, being president of the board in 1888. He has been a loyal Democrat since 1861, and in 1892 was nominated by the party for Congressman from his district, losing that year by a small number of votes, as he did also in 1894, when nominated for Congressman-at-large. In 1896 he was nominated for elector-at-large, but declined to be a candidate then on account of his opposition to the policy of the party on the silver issue. Afterward he went as a delegate to the Indianapolis convention of 1896, which nominated Palmer and Buckner.

Mr. Hancock has been prominent in the tariff reform movement. In 1883 he delivered a lecture on the subject of "Petroleum versus Protection" at Franklin and other places, which attracted wide attention, and was awarded a silver medal by the Cobden Club, of which he was elected an honorary member. He was chairman of the sub-committee and drew the original draft of the resolutions passed at the Tariff Reform Convention at Chicago in 1885, and in 1887 was again chairman of the committee on resolutions. He is the author of numerous articles upon various economic questions relating to the tariff. In 1893 he wrote a paper entitled "The Evolution of Money," which was adopted and published under the auspices of the National

Board of Trade of the United States. He is a member of the Civil Service Reform Association. For a number of years he has been an active member of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, has served as president of the State organization, and was national president general in 1904-05. He affiliates with the Foresters. He is a trustee of Kenyon College, his alma mater, and has never allowed his interest in educational projects to lapse. In Franklin he was the founder of the public library and made the first contribution given toward its establishment. Mr. Hancock was formerly a communicant of the Episcopal Church and served as vestryman, but his religious association at present is with the Unitarians.

In 1865 Mr. Hancock married Ella C. Hitchcock, of Pittsburgh, daughter of Lawrence Peres and Elizabeth (Johnston) Hitchcock. She died in 1871, and in 1873 he married (second) her sister Mary Kate. Mr. and Mrs. Hancock have had five children, namely: Lawrence P., born June 10, 1866, a graduate of Kenyon College, who was admitted to the bar Aug. 26, 1889, and is now a prominent attorney of Buffalo, N. Y.; Ella C., born June 21, 1874, who was married Feb. 5, 1903, to Frederick L. Williamson and now resides at Franklin with her only child, Katherine Hancock (the late Mr. Williamson was cashier of the Lambertton National Bank of Oil City); Mary Elizabeth, born July 22, 1876, who lives at home; James Denton, born Oct. 19, 1880, who died Dec. 18, 1885; and Philip Gaylord, born June 11, 1883, who died Dec. 20, 1885.

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(I) Matthias Hitchcock came from England in 1635, landing at Boston in the spring of that year. In Bond's "History of Watertown, Mass., " is a "Record of Matthew Hitchcock, a townsman then inhabiting," receiving in July, 1636, twenty-three acres of land in the "Great Dividends." This land he later sold to D. Patrick. In 1639 his name appears in the records of New Haven, Conn., where he was among the original signers of the fundamental agreement made on the 4th of the "fowerth month called June, 1639." He was one of the five purchasers of "South End Neck," now East Haven, Conn., where the five dwelt after 1651. In the Colony of New Haven his name appears in the schedule of planters, prepared before April, 1641. He is reckoned as having an estate of fifty pounds and is given ten acres in the "First Division," two acres in the Neck, four acres in the Meadow, sixteen in the "Second Division," and his yearly

rates for land are put at eight shillings. He died Nov. 16, 1669, and Elizabeth, his widow, died in 1676. His will is dated November, 1669. Children: Eliakim, who married Nov. 4, 1666-67, Sarah Merrick; Nathaniel; John, who married Jan. 18, 1670, Abigail Merriman; and Elizabeth, born June 4, 1651, in New Haven, who married in January, 1672, Anthony Howd and (second) John Nash.

(II) Nathaniel Hitchcock was probably born in New Haven. Besides his homestead there he held land at the South End and in Foxing. On Jan. 18, 1670, he married Elizabeth Moss, who was born Oct. 3, 1650, in New Haven, daughter of John Moss, and died about 1706. Mr. Hitchcock died in East Haven, and the inventory of his estate, taken March 22, 1699, included the "homestead, land and meadow at town, valued at two hundred pounds, the South End farm, and woodland at Foxing, valued at three hundred pounds." His children were: Elizabeth, born March 17, 1672, who married a Bishop, and died before 1731; Nathaniel; Abiah, born Oct. 26, 1680, who married Dec. 3, 1703, Samuel Peck; John, born Jan. 28, 1685, who married March 1, 1707-08, Mary Thompson, and (second) May 29, 1711, Abiah Bassett; Ebenezer, born April 9, 1689, who married June 25, 1711, Anna Perkins; and Mary, born Jan. 20, 1692, who married Aug. 1, 1710, Samuel Bassett.

(III) Nathaniel Hitchcock (2), born in East Haven July 28, 1678, settled at South End Neck, and died Dec. 25, 1726. On Dec. 23, 1702, he married Rebecca Morris, daughter of Eleazer and Anna Morris, born at East Haven July 20, 1682, who died in 1729. Children: James, born Dec. 5, 1703, who was married in 1721 to Elizabeth Ray, and died in 1729; Nathaniel; Daniel, born April 17, 1708, who married March 12, 1728-29, Abigail Chedsey, and died Jan. 1, 1761; Caleb, born Sept. 2, 1712, who married Feb. 16, 1738-39, Isabell Goodsell, (second) May 26, 1757, Sarah Shepard and (third) about 1775 Lydia, and died March 30, 1777; Benjamin, born Aug. 22, 1715, died Sept. 24, 1800, who married Feb. 7, 1750, Elizabeth Averett and (second) Jan. 31, 1754, Abigail Olds Ward; Rebecca, born March 28, 1718, who married Jan. 27, 1750-51, Daniel Leak; Elizabeth, born Aug. 10, 1721, who married Daniel Augur; Stephen, born July 6 or 26, 1724, who married Feb. 9, 1749, Sarah Leak, and (second) possibly Nov. 5, 1778, Mrs. Abigail Pardee.

(IV) Nathaniel Hitchcock (3), born at East Haven Dec. 16, 1705, removed to Southington in 1743. In 1747-48 he was living in Farming-

ton, Conn., where there are many records of the sale of lands in Southington parish by Nathaniel Hitchcock, of Farmington, to his sons Nathaniel, Amos, Joel and Zachariah, dating from 1763 to 1769. Later he removed to Burlington, Conn., where he died. In 1728 he married Elizabeth Mansfield, who died Sept. 11, 1807, aged one hundred years, eleven months. At the age of ninety-four she rode twelve or fourteen miles to visit one of her children, and until her last illness was able to walk about and to go up and down stairs without assistance. Children: (1) Nathaniel, born Dec. 7, 1728, died March 23, 1771. On Jan. 21, 1762, he married Rebecca Cook. (2) Lydia, born Dec. 7, 1730, married May 28, 1752, James Beckwith. (3) Lois, born Aug. 28, 1732, married April 25, 1755, Samuel Dutton. (4) Hannah, born Dec. 6, 1733, married David Bradley. (5) David was born in 1736. (6) Amos, born 1738, died July or Feb. 17, 1801, married May 3, 1759, Mrs. Azubah (Cook) Benham. (7) Joel, born 1739, died February, 1813, married April 14, 1757, Lois Scott. (8) Zachariah is mentioned below. (9) Elizabeth, born 1742, married Amos Wright. (10) Emma, baptized May 20, 1744, married Timothy Gillette. (11) Mary, baptized March 11, 1746, married Jacob Carter. (12) Sarah, born Sept. 4, 1749, married Sept. 20, 1769, Benoni Atkins.

(V) Zachariah Hitchcock, born 1742, probably in East Haven, whence his parents removed to Southington in 1743, lived at one time in Plymouth, Conn., and removed thence to Burlington, which was a part of Bristol until it was incorporated in 1806. He was living in Bristol in 1809. He died Dec. 20, 1819, and was buried at Wolcott, Conn. In December, 1768, he married Mercy Byington, and they had children as follows: Betsy married Zachariah Rogers and (second) D. P. Munger; Polly married Leyton Scofield and (second) Louis Barnes; Oliver, born March 12, 1776, died Jan. 31, 1839, married in 1795 Anne Carrington and (second) in 1820 Polly Church; Huldah married Benson Smith; Isaac married Fanny Knowlton and (second) Eliza Mullet; Julia married May 16, 1805, John Smith; Seth, born April 15, 1785, died Feb. 27, 1852, married May 6, 1804, Hepsey Blinn; Moses, born May 11, 1786, married Harriet Parsons; Aaron is mentioned below; George married Lavinia Fenn.

(VI) Dr. Aaron Hitchcock, born May 11, 1786, settled in Burlington, Conn., and died there Aug. 28, 1838. On July 6, 1808, he married Milette Mann, who was born in Burling-

ton Aug. 23, 1787, daughter of Dr. Peres and Milette Porter (White) Mann. Mrs. Hitchcock died July 2, 1860. Children: Jeannette J., born March 7, 1809, died in October, 1854, married Dec. 29, 1829, Isaac Benham; Lawrence Peres is mentioned below; Oliver, born March 25, 1816, married Feb. 2, 1837, Betsey Clark, and (second) Cornelia Smith; Roland, born Oct. 9, 1817, married Lucelia Smith, (second) Margaret Ferris and (third) Mary Graves; E. Darwin, born Dec. 10, 1819, was a doctor, and died Dec. 26, 1849; Zachariah was next in the family; Milette, born April 10, 1822, died unmarried; Helen, born Sept. 30, 1824, married April 14, 1847, Philip Gaylord.

Dr. Peres Mann, father of Mrs. Aaron Hitchcock, was born Nov. 30, 1758, and died Feb. 1, 1843. He was descended from William and Mary (Jared) Mann, (who were married at Cambridge, Mass.) through Rev. Samuel (born 1647) and Esther (Ware) Mann, Samuel and Ziporah (Brillings) Mann and Ebenezer Mann. Dr. Mann married Milette Porter, who was born Feb. 17, 1759, daughter of Dr. Joshua and Mercy Porter, who were married May 2, 1754, in Southington, Conn. Joshua Porter, born in New Haven Nov. 5, 1718, son of Dr. Richard (born March 24, 1658) and Ruth Porter, was a grandson of Dr. Daniel and Mary Porter. Dr. Daniel Porter was a native of Farmington, and was licensed to practice medicine by the General Court in 1654, being the first to receive such license in the Colony.

(VII) Lawrence Peres Hitchcock, born April 8, 1811, in Burlington, Conn., married Jan. 17, 1842, Elizabeth Johnston, of Washington, Pa., who died there in May, 1848. His second marriage was to Sarah Liggett. Children: Ella C. and Mary Kate, both of whom married James Denton Hancock. Mr. Hitchcock settled in Pittsburgh, Pa., where he was a successful business man.

ROBERT McCALMONT, the present postmaster at Franklin, Venango county, bears a name distinguished in Pennsylvania from Colonial days, members of this family having taken a prominent part in the making of American history ever since their advent here. He is a son of the late Gen. Alfred B. McCalmont, and was born in Washington, D. C., Sept. 18, 1850, while his father was residing there, officially employed. His grandfather was Judge Alexander McCalmont, who served ten years as presiding judge of the Eighteenth Judicial district of Pennsylvania.

Going farther back, we find that the Mc-

Calmonts, though long considered a Scotch family, were originally Irish, being descended from Fiack, son of Niall, the one hundred and twenty-sixth monarch of Ireland. There were nineteen generations from Fiack to Calma (in Irish "brave"), from whom came the ancestors of the Scotch clan of MacCalma or McCalmont. The family arms in Scotland were: A lion rampant between three dexter hands coupled at wrist gules. Crest: A greyhound stantant azure. Motto: *Semper patriae servire presto.* At Dumfries, Scotland, the name is preserved on a pane of glass in the home of James McCalmont, upon which in July, 1793, Robert Burns inscribed the following lines:

Blest be McCalmont to his latest day;  
No envious clouds o'ercast his evening ray;  
No wrinkle furrowed by the hand of care,  
Nor ever sorrow add one silver hair.  
O may no son the father's honor stain,  
Nor ever daughter give a mother pain.

The branch of the family here under consideration are the posterity of Thomas McCalmont, the Covenanter minister who was persecuted for his faith in the reign of Charles II, and who made his escape by crossing in a fishing boat to Ireland, where he settled at Cairn Castle, in County Antrim. His children were: Thomas, next in line to Robert McCalmont; James, born 1707, who married Hannah Blair; John, born May 1, 1709, who married a Latimer of County Tyrone, Ireland, came to Pennsylvania, and settled on the Susquehanna, dying in 1770; Robert—no trace of his descendants; and Hugh.

Thomas McCalmont (2) was a resident of County Armagh, Ireland, for a short time previous to 1766. Subsequently he joined his brother John in America, and he was drowned in crossing a river near Philadelphia on his way to meet his son Robert, who had come in his ship to conduct him back to Ireland. He married Susan Wallace.

John McCalmont, son of Thomas (2), was born in County Armagh, Ireland, near the town of the same name, Jan. 1, 1750 (old style), and came to America when sixteen years old. He had been apprenticed to a clock-maker, but not liking either his master or the trade entered into an agreement with the captain of the ship "Rose," to serve three years for his passage to this country, with the privilege of selecting the person with whom he should live, and of having his indenture cancelled on payment of a certain sum of money. He remained near Philadelphia until 1773, in which year he married Elizabeth Conard or

Kunders, who was born in 1750, daughter of Henry and Jane (Stroud) Conard of Kunders, of Philadelphia county, and great-granddaughter of Thomas and Ellen (Strepers) Conrad or Kunders. Thomas Kunders and the famous Pastorius were the first in America to protest against human slavery. John McCalmont was out with the militia in the Revolution one tour of service under General Lacey, in Capt. Alexander Brown's company, and wintered with Washington at Valley Forge. In 1783, after a few years' residence in the Kishacoquillas valley at Greenwood (now Mifflin county), near Lewistown, he moved to the Nittany valley in Center county, where he purchased a tract of land near where Jacksonville is located, his home being a few rods from the Lick Run meetinghouse. He remained there until 1803 when he removed to Venango county and settled in Sugarcreek township, about four miles north of Franklin. John McCalmont died Aug. 3, 1832, at the home of his son Henry in Cornplanter township, and was buried in the U. P. (Seceder) churchyard there, at Plumer. His wife died Aug. 10, 1829, aged seventy-seven years, and was buried in the old graveyard at Franklin. They were the parents of the following children: Thomas, born Oct. 14, 1774, came to Venango county in 1802; Henry, born March 15, 1776, came to Venango county in 1819, removed to Cornplanter township in 1851, and founded the town of Plumer; John, born Jan. 15, 1779, was drowned when about eighteen months old; James, born May 17, 1781, served as a volunteer in the war of 1812, was wounded in the battle of Bridgewater (Lundy's Lane) and died about three weeks later at Black Rock, near Buffalo; Robert, born Aug. 27, 1783, came to Venango county in 1802 with his brother Thomas, and settled a tract on the Dempseytown road some five miles from Franklin, with the assistance of Jacob Whitman and John Lupher building the cabin into which their parents and family moved; Alexander is mentioned below; John, born Sept. 9, 1788, came to Venango county in 1803 and was one of the most prominent citizens of his day here, a successful manufacturer and at one time county treasurer; Elizabeth, born Feb. 3, 1791, married William Shaw; Sarah, born Nov. 3, 1792, married George Crain; Jane, born Oct. 8, 1794, married James Ricketts; Joseph, born Nov. 23, 1798, completed the family. Of these,

Judge Alexander McCalmont, the grandfather of Robert McCalmont, was born Oct. 23, 1785, in Mifflin county, Pa., moving with

his parents to Venango county. There he passed the remainder of his life. He gave early manifestations of a vigorous intellect, and though he had only ordinary advantages acquired a good practical education for the times, and taught school during his early manhood, having one of the first schools in Franklin. Later he embarked in mercantile pursuits and subsequently in the iron business, operating the first iron works in the county. But his ambitions were in another direction, and taking up the study of law with David Irvine he gained admission to the bar in 1820 and thereafter gave most of his time to legal practice, meeting with considerable professional success and acquiring a reputation as an able attorney. In 1839 he was appointed president judge of the Eighteenth Judicial district and served with distinction ten years. The district did not include Venango county until shortly before the close of his term, when it was taken from the Sixth district.

In his earlier life Judge McCalmont had been quite active in local politics as a Democrat, was sheriff in 1811, county commissioner in 1814, prothonotary in 1818, and also served as deputy surveyor, 1812-17. He died Aug. 10, 1857, in the faith of the M. E. Church, which he joined in 1820.

Judge McCalmont's first wife, Margaret, daughter of John Broadfoot, of Franklin, Pa., died in 1817 without issue. In 1818 he married (second) Elizabeth Hart Connely, who was born at Bellefonte in 1801, and came to Franklin in 1806 with her father, who settled here. Their children, all now deceased, were: William; John Swazey, born April 28, 1822, died 1906, who married Elizabeth P. Stehley; Alfred B.; and Elizabeth, who married Gen. Edward Clinton Wilson.

The following extracts from the notebook of Alexander McCalmont are very interesting, both as supplementary to the family record and for their historical value: I was born at a place called Greenwood in the Cishacoquillas Valley Oct. 23 (this is ten days later than the Bible record, Oct. 13), 1785. When about two years old my father moved to Nittany Valley and settled on a place at the head of a spring called Lick Run, the tract of land on which we lived and improved until the spring of 1803, adjoining the tract on which my uncle Thomas settled and on which Jacksonville is. My father's tract which he purchased was the one on which the village of Jacksonville is, and was bounded on the east by a tract owned by Capt. Thomas Wilson, on which he was settled before the Revolution. I recollect the day of

my brother John's birth, and also recollect seeing the raising of the house in which he was born, and the small shanty, without any floor or loft, in which we lived before the house in which he was born was built. It was of hewed logs. Joseph McKibben was one of the corner men; he raised the northwest corner. It is strange that he is the only one assisting that I can recollect. I had come near the corner of the house on which he was, and he "threwed" chips at me and told me to go away. This I never forgot, and his image at the time and that of the building on the corner of which he was are still as fresh in my mind as the occurrences of yesterday. The first school I went to was taught by William Wilson. The schoolhouse was between Thomas Wilson's and William Wilson's. The land on which it stood was afterward owned by Samuel Beck. This was in 1792. The only persons living in Nittany Valley between where Bellefonte now is and Fishing Creek Narrows in my earliest recollection were as follows: William Lamb lived on Spring creek (now Bellefonte); a German family by the name of Elson lived three miles further down the valley; Thomas Wilson next east of us; Thomas McCalmont around the point or little hill south of us; William Wilson lived down the valley or the next place east of Thomas Wilson's; William Swanzey next below; Joseph McKibben next; William Davis lived down near Fishing creek gap. There was no mill in Nittany Valley. Robert McClelland built the first mill in the narrows at Lick Run. I remember when he came to my father's. The second time he brought hands with him, Robert Lucas and Baptist Lucas. They lodged at my father's and sawed the stuff for the mill with a whipsaw. Philip Houses was the millwright whom Joseph McClelland settled on a tract next to my uncle Thomas, up the valley. A number of settlers came in soon after, and a road was opened for wagons down along the sunnier north side of the valley. At the time my father came to Nittany I think there were no improvements in the Nittany below Harbison's gap. John Harbison lived there at the time my father settled.

In 1794 the schoolhouse was erected on my uncle Thomas's land twenty or thirty perches southwest of my father's. William McGarvey was the first teacher and taught for two years. I attended this school most part of the time and sometimes in winter went barefoot through the snow. McClelland's mill had been burned, and when rebuilding I recollect Mr. Petit was master millwright. William Tipton and David

Tipton were working at the mill and attended school in the winter. Thomas Wilson, John Shoup and other young men went from William Wilson's to the school past my father's and frequently carried me on their shoulders to school. About that time there were frequent meetings to make arrangements for building a meeting house and forming a congregation. The only sermon I had ever heard up to 1794 was preached by a Rev. Mr. Grier in Mr. Wilson's barn. His text was, Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden. I think it was in 1795 or 1796 that arrangements were made to build a meeting house. It was built by Bennet Lucas and his boys of hewed logs. Pine trees were very plenty at that time and were not as valuable as at present. The meeting house was covered with lap shingles. I recollect I carried shingles to the top of the house for amusement. The first year there was nothing done to it but to cover it. It progressed very slowly. The next summer the door and floor were in. The first sermon I recollect was preached by a Mr. Johnston, a son-in-law of Judge Brown's. It is possible that others were preached there before. Henry R. Wilson took charge of the congregation and continued until I left in the spring of 1803.

Gen. Alfred B. McCalmont, youngest son of Judge Alexander McCalmont, was born in Venango county April 28, 1825, and died May 7, 1874. Having obtained what education the local schools afforded, he pursued his higher studies at Allegheny College and Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pa., graduating from the latter in 1844. Then he read law in his father's office, being admitted to the Venango county bar May 25, 1847. He removed to Pittsburgh and entered upon the practice of his profession, in which his ability and reliable work for his clients soon won him a satisfactory share of the legal business there. He also went into the newspaper field, in which he was associated with T. J. Keenan in 1853. In 1855 he was appointed prothonotary of the Supreme court district of western Pennsylvania, an office always filled by a lawyer, and resigned it in May, 1858, to accept an appointment as chief clerk to Hon. Jeremiah S. Black, then attorney general of the United States in the cabinet of President Buchanan, with functions since exercised by the deputy attorney general. General McCalmont was appointed the first assistant attorney general, and when later the office of assistant attorney general was created by Congress he was appointed to the position, so serving to the end of the administration. Then he returned to Franklin and

resumed law practice, in partnership with James K. Kerr. But he was soon drawn into the military service of the Union, in 1862 recruiting a company of volunteers for the 142d Pennsylvania Regiment, attached to the Army of the Potomac. By regular promotions he rose from captain to lieutenant colonel of that regiment, and in the fall of 1864 became colonel of the 208th Pennsylvania troops, and his record throughout was brilliant. He commanded the brigade in the assault upon Petersburg, and in recognition of his gallantry in that and other engagements received from President Lincoln the rank of brevet brigadier general.

When the war closed General McCalmont came back to Franklin and resumed his profession, in which he was actively engaged until his death. He was regarded as one of the ablest members of the Venango county bar, not alone because of his legal erudition, but also on account of his very remarkable gifts as an orator, his logic and arguments being conveyed with especially telling power by the vigor of his language and precision of expression. His words never missed their mark because of any haziness or indefiniteness, either in his ideas or his manner of clothing them. A Democrat like his father, he was his party's candidate for Congress in 1868 and the choice of western Pennsylvania for the gubernatorial nomination in 1872, when Charles R. Buckalew was nominated.

On April 25, 1853, General McCalmont married Sarah F. Evans, who was born in 1829, daughter of Evan Reece Evans, of Pittsburgh, and survived him many years, passing away in 1898. They had the following children: Lydia Collins, born Feb. 12, 1854, married Thomas McGough, and is deceased; Sarah Lowry, born June 7, 1856, married W. U. Lewison and is deceased; Robert is mentioned below. Mr. and Mrs. Lewison had two children, Sarah McC. and Almaina Parker, the latter marrying George Hayes, of Boston.

Robert McCalmont, only son of Gen. Alfred B. McCalmont, received his preliminary education in the public schools of Franklin, and took his collegiate course at Princeton, where he was graduated in 1878 with the degree of C. E. He then read law in the offices of Dodd & Lee, attorneys at Franklin, and was admitted to the bar of Venango county in 1881. After a year's practice as a member of the firm of Lee & McCalmont, of Oil City, he opened an office in Franklin, where he has practiced ever since. For many years he has also been in business as an oil producer, and

is still so engaged. He is a Democrat, and was appointed postmaster of Franklin Jan. 28, 1915, and he has handled the affairs of the office ably, having a very fortunate gift for management which enables him to keep his numerous interests in order. He has many social connections, belonging to the Washington Club, the Franklin Club, the Elks, the Royal Arcanum and the Masonic fraternity, in the latter affiliating with Myrtle Lodge No. 316, F. & A. M., Venango Chapter No. 211, Keystone Council No. 42, and Franklin Commandery No. 44, K. T., all of Franklin, as well as Pittsburgh Consistory and Syria Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Pittsburgh. In religion he is an Episcopalian, and he has been vestryman of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Franklin for thirty-eight years.

Mr. McCalmont married Jessie B. Crawford, daughter of William R. and Jane (Kerr) Crawford, of Franklin. They have no children.

**LAMBERTON.** For the space of three generations there is hardly another family in Venango county which has maintained more important business and social connections than the Lambertons, who are still well represented among the leading citizens of this section. The financial institutions which they have conducted, in both Franklin and Oil City, have been noted for solidity and honorable activity in the material interests concerned with the development of western Pennsylvania, holding first rank among banking houses there. A mere enumeration of their interests and an outline of the principal events in their busy lives would be sufficient to indicate the vigor of personality which has characterized the various members of the family and its value to the general welfare. The name has become honored all over this portion of the State. When Robert Lamberton, the founder of this family at Franklin, came hither in the year 1830, it was with the modest ambition to find opportunity for employment and means of establishing himself in life. But in his most optimistic moments he could scarcely have had any vision of the large place which he and his sons and grandsons were destined to fill in the activities and advancement of that now important city.

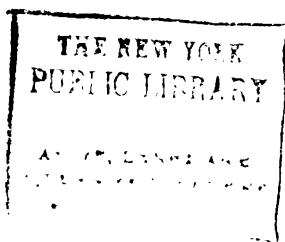
Robert Lamberton was a native of the North of Ireland, born March 20, 1809, at Gorton Raid, about six miles from the old walled town of Londonderry, in County Derry, on an old farm located on the left bank of the Foyle. The family is of Scotch origin, the name being a very ancient one in Scotland, where it is

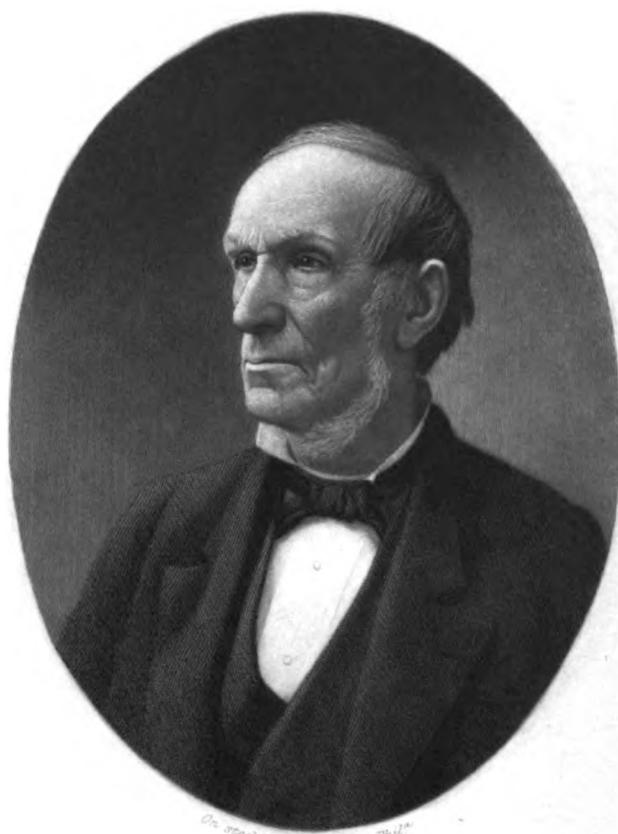
found as far back as the eleventh century, Lambertons being among the landholders of Ayrshire and Berwick-on-Tweed in the reign of King Edgar, 1097-1107. John de Lamberton was sheriff of Stirling from 1263 to 1265. One of the most renowned members of the family was William de Lamberton, Bishop of St. Andrew's, elected in 1297, and preferred to the episcopate of St. Andrew's by Pope Boniface VIII., 1298. As Bishop of St. Andrew's he was primate of all Scotland, and first peer of the kingdom, ranking next to the royal family and taking precedence accordingly. He crowned the sovereigns and was chancellor and legate of the Apostolic See. He was a friend of Sir William Wallace and Robert Bruce. After the defeat of the former at the battle of Falkirk, in 1298, Bishop Lamberton, the elder Bruce and Sir John Comyn were appointed regents of Scotland. He was one of three bishops to anoint and crown Robert Bruce king of Scotland, March 27, 1306, and adhered to King Robert through all his vicissitudes. He held ecclesiastical office for thirty years, dying in 1328.

In 1321 there was an Alexander de Lamberton among the Scottish barons who signed the famous letter to the Pope asserting the independence of Scotland, in which it was declared that "never, so long as one hundred Scots are alive, will we be subject to the yoke of England." During the religious persecution under the Stuarts, the Covenanters were maltreated and harassed until they were obliged to leave their own country, seeking refuge in Ireland. This exodus commenced after the battles of Pentland Hills, in 1666, and continued after the battle of Bothwell Bridge, in 1679. It is said that among those who sought refuge in Ireland were three brothers by the name of Lamberton, one settling at the Giants' Causeway, another near Londonderry, and the third in the same county.

The arms of the Lamberton family are: Argent, three escallop shells, sable. Crest: A stag's head at gaze. St. Andrew's cross between the attires. Motto: *Volonte de Dieu.* As the arms would indicate, the early members of the family probably took part in the Crusades.

The second of the three brothers above mentioned was James Lamberton, who had a son Robert, born about 1739, and these were the ancestors of the line in which we are interested. William Lamberton, son of Robert, was born in 1773 and died March 2, 1849, his wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Gilfillan, dying the same year, aged sixty-three. They had





Engraved by John Sartain Phil<sup>del</sup>

Robert Lamberton

nine children, as follows: Robert, mentioned below; Jane, who married Jared Irwin and (second) Dr. Bushnell, of Ohio; John, who lived and died in Ireland; James Gilfillan, who came to this country and became a prominent citizen of Franklin, Pa., where he died Dec. 25, 1903; William, who also settled in Venango county, Pa., and whose wife was Sarah Smullen; Ann, who became the wife of James Shannon and lived in Franklin, Pa.; Esther, who married John Mitchell and resided in Philadelphia, Pa.; Eliza, who married William Cunningham, and also lived in Philadelphia; and Martha, who married Samuel Cochran.

ROBERT LAMBERTON, son of William and Elizabeth (Gilfillan) Lamberton, spent his early life on the home farm and enjoyed average advantages for the times and circumstances. His opportunities for obtaining an education were as good as the locality afforded, and his practical training was acquired assisting his father with the work of tilling the soil. When he reached his majority and started out on his own account he came to the United States, sailing to Quebec, and proceeding thence by boat, stage and on foot to Venango county, Pa., where he arrived at the home of his uncle, John Lamberton, in Plum township, July 10, 1830. He farmed that season and then went to Franklin to find employment, becoming engaged as a laborer and later as a stonemason on the Erie canal. Then he worked for a year at the Sam Hays forge, the most irksome and laborious period of his whole life, and also the most unprofitable, for he lost his wages by the insolvency of his employer. After that he began to clerk for a Mr. Sage, in a store at the north end of the upper French creek bridge. At that time Franklin was a small village of about five hundred population, located on what was the site of Fort Machault in the period of the French possession and of the English Fort Venango, and later of the United States works. But apart from the fact that it was the seat of justice of Venango county it had no importance, and there was no promise of the development of natural riches which has since attracted enterprise and wealth to this region. The little stone courthouse and jail on the common was the principal building; there was not even a church in the town. From such primitive conditions Mr. Lamberton lived to witness the growth of a modern city, and few hands were as potent as his in shaping its future. Thrifty and frugal, he immediately began to save out of his earnings, and within a couple of years after reaching Franklin had acquired enough capital to start a small store, in part-

nership with a Mr. Lindsay, patronized at first chiefly by those employed on the canal. With this humble beginning he founded what was for many years the largest store at Franklin, a general establishment typical of the times, with a stock which included everything in demand in the homes and on the farms of the region, and where the local inhabitants brought the productions of their own labor for trade. For some years, at the outset of his business career, this store was Mr. Lamberton's principal interest, and he continued his connection with it for twenty-eight years, until he turned it over to his son, W. J. Lamberton. The original store, which stood on the west side of Thirteenth street, on what afterward was the site of the Lamberton homestead, was destroyed by fire one night, with all the stock. But Mr. Lamberton, undismayed, saved enough to buy a lot on the southeast corner of Otter and Thirteenth streets (now occupied by the Lamberton block, a three-story brick building owned by his son, Harry Lamberton), and in 1835 started the mercantile business there on a small scale. The trade grew so rapidly that he removed in 1841 across the street to the corner rooms of the "National Hotel" building, which he erected in 1840-41, and which is now occupied by store rooms. He put up a number of other buildings in the town in the early days, with his own capital building enough dwelling houses and brick blocks to make a goodly sized village of themselves.

Meantime, as his means accrued, he was not indifferent to the other opportunities which the expanding life of the town and county presented. He established and carried on for some years branch stores at Cooperstown and Utica (also Dempseytown). By 1840 a number of iron furnaces had been set up in this section, and a rolling mill and nail factory were established in Franklin, in which Mr. Lamberton became interested in 1845, having these and a gristmill as well at the mills in the Third ward, giving much of his time and attention to the successful operation of same in 1850-1856. In connection therewith he built the upper French creek dam, during the construction of which he so injured his health by over-exposure in the water and in all kinds of weather that he suffered to the end of his life as a result. About that time he also erected flour and lumber mills which were carried on successfully for several years, and he showed public spirit as well as business enterprise in his ventures, being identified with most of the projects designed to benefit the

town. Under his skillful management they also brought profit to the investors who had the courage to support them. He labored zealously to secure good roads and bridges for the neighborhood, acting as bridge manager for over thirty years, and never failed to assist in such improvements financially even when his personal services were not enlisted.

When the development of the oil business brought hitherto undreamed of wealth into the county, with the accompanying demand for financial institutions and suitable facilities for its negotiation, Mr. Lamberton opened his first bank, in 1860, doing business as R. Lamberton, Banker. Later it became the Lamberton Savings Bank, in March, 1873. During the early days of the oil excitement some of the citizens of the county found it necessary to have a safe depositary for their money, and Mr. Lamberton owning a large safe they would bring it in to him, and he would give them credit for it on his store books. That was in 1859. With his characteristic shrewdness he saw that the community needed a bank, and when in 1860 he erected the old Lamberton homestead, on the present site of the Y. M. C. A. building, he built a banking room in the corner where he conducted a regular banking business under the name of R. Lamberton, Banker. This was the first bank in Venango county. Founded to meet the necessities of the period, it became one of the permanent establishments of the place, and from that time to the present the name of Lamberton has been associated with the most reputable financial operations in this part of Pennsylvania. The original bank organization was maintained until March, 1873, and during that time Mr. Lamberton operated the business with his own capital; after the bank had passed into other hands besides his own he remarked that there was never an hour in its history, while under his administration, that he could not have honored every call upon its capital from his private funds. During this period he also started a banking business at Oil City, Venango county, in company with his son-in-law, Calvin W. Gilfillan, and the outgrowth of their institution, the Lamberton National Bank, is now the strongest bank in that city, its president being his son Robert G. Lamberton, and the cashier a nephew, Charles M. Lamberton. Upon Robert Lamberton's retirement from the bank in Franklin, because of ill health, he sold out to Mr. Gilfillan, R. L. Cochran and his son R. G. Lamberton.

With all his material interests, Mr. Lamberton never allowed his natural breadth of mind to become narrowed to their prosperity alone.

Everything that bound him to his fellow men was a sacred responsibility which he regarded as seriously as he took his private affairs. He served in a number of public positions, for several terms as a member of the council, for one term as a school director, and as one of the trustees of the old Franklin Academy under the old law. In 1862 he was elected associate judge and served for five years, part of the time with Isaac G. Gordon and later with John Trunkey, both of whom were afterward distinguished members of the State Supreme court. Meanwhile the Civil war was calling on all patriotic citizens for aid in preserving the Union, and though beyond the age of active service he did more than his share of home duties to show his allegiance to the government. His time and means were always given liberally in response to every call. He aided in fitting out volunteers for the army, and gave generous support to the Christian Commission and other organizations with similar purposes, helping the cause as truly as if he had gone to the front. Politically he was a Democrat, and firm in his adherence to the principles of the party, which he supported consistently. But in this, as in all things, he was tolerant of the opinions of others and respected their rights fully.

Mr. Lamberton was for many years one of the most prominent lay members of the Presbyterian Church in this part of Pennsylvania. He early joined the church at Franklin, with which he was connected for about fifty years, and not only took a sincere interest in its spiritual welfare but also helped freely to keep its material affairs in prosperous condition, so as not to hamper the efforts of the pastor and other workers by financial embarrassments. As trustee for many years he employed his best skill in guiding the business concerns of the church to the best advantage, with results that were highly gratifying to the congregation. But he was no less esteemed as one of the truest friends and cooperators in spiritual enterprises, and he was a ruling elder for many years. He was elected to the latter position in 1862, and accepted reluctantly, but having assumed the duties of the office he performed them with the highest regard for their importance, and not only attended the meetings of the session regularly but also went frequently to the presbytery and general assembly, where his opinion and advice were sought and valued as at home. For more than forty years he was a Sunday school worker, serving as teacher and superintendent, and after his retirement from the latter office was recalled, continuing

the work until he felt he could serve no longer. But he subsequently attended as a member of the pastor's Bible class, giving up his connection with the Sunday school finally only because of the infirmities of age. His death occurred Aug. 7, 1885, at the age of seventy-six years, at his home on Thirteenth street, Franklin. He is buried in the Franklin cemetery.

On April 6, 1837, Mr. Lamberton married Margaret Seaton, of Franklin, a native of Westmoreland county, Pa., daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Mavis) Seaton and great-granddaughter of James and Martha Seaton, who lived at Dranity, in County Tyrone, Ireland. Of their large family, George Seaton, who married Nancy Amberson, came to America about 1778 and settled in the Ligonier valley, near Greensburg, Pa. His brothers Thomas and Alexander also came to this country about that time, and all served during the Revolution in a company attached to LaFayette's division, George as captain, Thomas as lieutenant and Alexander as first sergeant. After the war George Seaton settled in Westmoreland county, where he became a prosperous citizen. His family consisted of twelve children, viz.: John, William, Robert, Elizabeth, Thomas (father of Mrs. Robert Lamberton), Jackson, George, Amberson, Jane, Mary, Nancy and Martha.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lamberton were born nine children, namely: William John, born Jan. 9, 1838, married April 29, 1869, Sarah L. Raymond; Elizabeth A., born Sept. 19, 1839, married Nov. 30, 1858, Hon. Calvin W. Gilfillan; Lewis Thomas, born May 2, 1841, married Oct. 7, 1862, Martha A. Mitchell; Samuel Harkness, born Dec. 21, 1844, married Sept. 12, 1868, Ann Eliza Smith; Robert Gilfillan is mentioned below; Marion, born Sept. 26, 1850, died in infancy; Margaret Jane, born June 10, 1852, married Oct. 6, 1876, George P. Hukill; Edwin Houston, born Oct. 21, 1854, married Sept. 16, 1885, Annie Carrier Kirker; Harry, born Feb. 13, 1858, who married Virginia E. Hughes, has been prominently associated with the Lamberton banking interests.

ROBERT GILFILLAN LAMBERTON was born Feb. 14, 1848, in Franklin, Pa., where he still resides. After receiving a preliminary training in the local schools he entered Westminster College, at New Wilmington, Pa., where he studied for four years, later attending Monmouth College, in Illinois, from which institution he was graduated in 1868. On his return to Pennsylvania he took up the study of law

with Hon. C. W. Gilfillan, was admitted to the bar of Venango county Sept. 12, 1870, and engaged in legal practice until 1884, during a year or more in partnership with his brother, Edwin H. Lamberton. In September, 1884, he practically relinquished his professional work in order to devote himself to the demands of the Lamberton Bank in Oil City, becoming its president. He had an advantageous opportunity to purchase the banking house and business of Reynolds, Lamberton & Co., changing the name to the Lamberton Bank, and he has been the executive head of the institution from that time to the present. S. H. Lamberton is vice president, Charles M. Lamberton cashier, and R. G., S. H., C. M., Chess and Harry Lamberton directors. With a capital of \$100,000, this bank according to the report made Sept. 17, 1917, has a surplus of over \$400,000, circulation of \$100,000 and deposits of \$3,390,193.74 (the total resources now—1918—are over four million), and a business record which places it among the "Roll of Honor" banks—those "possessing surplus and profits in excess of capital, thus giving tangible evidence of strength and security." Less than ten per cent. of the national banks in the United States are so listed. In points of surplus and undivided profits to capital in the year 1915 the Lamberton National Bank of Oil City was first in the city and county, twenty-seventh in the State, and fifty-sixth in the United States. The Lamberton National Bank is a depository for State, United States and United States Postal funds. It was reorganized in 1900 under the present title, the Lamberton National Bank of Oil City.

Mr. Lamberton is also vice president of the Lamberton National Bank of Franklin, the oldest bank in Venango county, and the largest National bank in the city of Franklin. It had its inception before the Civil war in the crude banking business done by Hon. Robert Lamberton in connection with his general merchandising business, in the building known as the "National Hotel," on the corner of Thirteenth and Otter streets, as above related. This bank was conducted until March, 1873, when owing to Mr. Lamberton's failing health he retired, and his interests were purchased by his son, R. G. Lamberton, C. W. Gilfillan and R. L. Cochran, the latter formerly cashier of the First National Bank of Franklin. These gentlemen organized The Lamberton Savings Bank, Mr. C. W. Gilfillan being made president and Mr. R. L. Cochran cashier. They conducted this bank until 1883, when W. J.

Lamberton and Harry Lamberton purchased the interest of R. L. Cochran and Harry Lamberton became the cashier.

About 1887 the owners of the bank found that it had outgrown its facilities, and R. G. Lamberton built what was then considered the finest banking room in the county. The bank occupied this new building in the fall of that year. This institution continued as The Lamberton Savings Bank until October, 1899, when the owners, finding the national banking laws attractive, organized The Lamberton National Bank of Franklin, with a capital of \$100,000. C. W. Gilfillan was elected president, Harry Lamberton vice president, and W. L. Gilfillan cashier. At the death of C. W. Gilfillan, in 1901, Harry Lamberton was elected president and R. G. Lamberton vice president. In August, 1903, W. L. Gilfillan retired as cashier to accept the position of vice president of The Austin National Bank of Austin, Texas, and Chess Lamberton, who had been assistant cashier, was made cashier. The business of this institution grew to such an extent that in 1910 it purchased its present site on the corner of Thirteenth and Liberty streets, and in July, 1912, moved into its present quarters, which are most modern and elaborate in every detail and considered the finest bank building in northwestern Pennsylvania.

The bank is really a monument to the name of Lamberton, which has been synonymous with stability and conservatism in Venango county for more than half a century. From the inception of this institution until the present time wisdom has always characterized its policies, and during the fifty-eight years of its existence it has performed its full duty toward its customers, the public, and, in a marked degree, toward the progress of Venango county and its material interests. It is eminently a safe, reliable banking house, and throughout its long history has never been known to embark in any questionable enterprise or deviated from the true principles that should govern every institution of this kind. The present officers of the bank are: President, Harry Lamberton; vice president, R. G. Lamberton; cashier, Chess Lamberton; assistant cashier, George J. Lamberton. These, with L. T. Lamberton, a retired merchant, compose the board of directors. This bank's present capital, surplus and undivided profits are \$363,489, and its present total resources are over \$2,678,183, showing a gain since July, 1912, when it moved into its new building, of \$96,489 in capital, surplus and undivided profits, and of \$778,183 in total resources.

In addition to his banking interests, Mr. Lamberton is connected with the Petroleum Telephone Company, of which he is a director. Like his father, he has been a good citizen, and he has been a valued member of the city council in Franklin, officially and unofficially doing much to further the best interests of the municipality. His business hours have been largely devoted to financial concerns, and if he has a hobby it may be said to be scientific agriculture, in which he interested himself seriously for a number of years, conducting a large farm between Franklin and Oil City, where he spent much of his leisure experimenting with results valuable not only to himself but to this entire section. The farm was sold a few years ago to Hon. Joseph C. Sibley. Mr. Lamberton now passes most of his time at the beautiful home which he built along French creek, in Sugarcreek township, at what is known as Argeon Hill, from which location there is a charming view of the surrounding country. His Franklin residence is at No. 1321 Otter street. For a number of years he was very prominent in the Knights and Ladies of Honor, holding the high position of supreme protector of the United States.

On Dec. 30, 1873, Mr. Lamberton married Luella J. Chess, who died Nov. 10, 1877, the mother of two children: Bertha C., born March 8, 1875, married Charles Mann Hamilton, of New York, at one time member of the New York State Senate and now serving his third term in Congress, representing the Chautauqua (N. Y.) District; Chess, born Nov. 1, 1877, is cashier of the Lamberton National Bank (he is mentioned elsewhere in this work). On Oct. 21, 1880, Mr. Lamberton married (second) Jessie King Judson, who was born Sept. 21, 1852, daughter of Dr. William and Clarissa (King) Judson, of Waterford, Pa. There were also two children by this union: George J., born Jan. 9, 1882, assistant cashier of the Lamberton National Bank of Franklin, married Oct. 27, 1909, Helen E. Elvin; Robert, born May 4, 1886, a resident of Franklin, now engaged in gas and oil production (he is mentioned elsewhere), married Sept. 29, 1909, Myra Morehead Plumer, and they have three children, Robert G. (born Feb. 3, 1912), Jessie M. (born Jan. 1, 1914) and Charles P. (born Oct. 31, 1917).

CHESS LAMBERTON, cashier of the Lamberton National Bank of Franklin, is the eldest son of Robert G. Lamberton and was born at Franklin Nov. 1, 1877. Mr. Lamberton was reared at his birthplace and obtained



*Robert W. Lamberton*



*Robert Lamberton*



*Robert G. Lamberton*



*R. G. Lamberton, Jr.*

*Jessie M. Lamberton*

*"The Four Bobs," Representing Four Generations*



his early education in the public schools of the city. He pursued his higher studies at the Kiskiminetas Springs School, Saltsburg, Pa., and later attended Grove City College for two years, following with a course in the Eastman business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Upon his graduation from the latter he came back to Franklin and entered the Lamberton National Bank as messenger, filling all the positions from that grade upward in regular order until he became assistant cashier. Since August, 1903, he has been cashier of the bank, and he is further associated with banking operations in this section of Pennsylvania as president and director of the First National Bank of Cochranton, Crawford county, and director of the Lamberton National Bank of Oil City. He is secretary and treasurer and one of the directors of the Dick Sand Company of Franklin, who operate a hundred thousand dollar plant near Polk, Pa. Mr. Lamberton is one of the most prominent business men in Franklin, and has been a strong force in directing local interests along the lines of modern progress. He served two years as president of the Franklin Board of Trade, and in that and every other capacity has done his utmost to promote desirable conditions in the city, whether of business or social order. He is a leading member of the most popular social organizations of the city and county, belonging to the Franklin Club, Washington Club, Venango Club, Wanango Club of Oil City and the B. P. O. Elks, as well as the Masonic fraternity. In the latter connection he is affiliated with Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M., of Franklin, Pittsburgh Consistory, thirty-second degree, and Zem Zem Temple, Mystic Shrine, at Erie, Pa. Mr. Lamberton is unmarried.

ROBERT LAMBERTON, youngest son of Robert G. Lamberton, was born at Franklin, Pa., May 4, 1886. Record of his parents and early ancestors will be found elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Lamberton received his preparatory education in the public schools of his native city, and subsequently took a four years' course at the Culver Military Academy, Culver, Ind. Returning home to take up business life, he was employed for eighteen months as a clerk in the Lamberton National Bank of Oil City, and then became a student in the Eastman business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., from which institution he was graduated in April, 1908, after special work along the lines he considered most essential to fit himself for commercial transactions. When he came back

to Franklin he engaged in the oil and gas industry, operating and developing properties in Venango and Clarion counties, where he holds extensive leases. At various times he has been engaged in the Lamberton National Bank of Franklin, and he became Assistant Cashier of this banking institution July 1, 1918. He is efficient and competent in business, progressive in thought and action, and a leader in social as well as business circles, prominent in the membership of the Franklin Club; the Venango Club of Oil City; B. P. O. Elks; Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M.; Venango Chapter, No. 211, R. A. M.; Keystone Council, No. 42, R. & S. M.; Franklin Commandery, No. 44, K. T. (all these Masonic bodies are of Franklin); and Zem Zem Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., at Erie, Pennsylvania.

On Sept. 29, 1909, Mr. Lamberton married Myra Morehead Plumer, daughter of Ralph C. and Margaret (Dieringer) Plumer, and they have three children, Robert G., Jessie Margaret and Charles Plumer.

PARKER. The members of the Parker family at Oil City, the brothers William M. and Harold T. Parker, may be appropriately referred to as representative citizens of Venango county. In their family connections they typify the best elements which entered into the early history of this section; and in their own lives and work they have endeavored to sustain the honor attaching to the name, both for integrity of purpose and the ability to realize high ideals of usefulness, in professional circles and as well in the obligations of citizenship. They stand foremost among the attorneys of the county and this section of the State, and their social and other personal relations are of the same high order.

This branch of the Parker family has been in America for several generations, but the early history is not definitely known, nor the original nationality of the immigrant ancestors. New England, Virginia, New Jersey and New York all had families of the same name, and points of similarity between the coats of arms possessed by Connecticut, Virginia and New Jersey Parkers would indicate a common origin in England. There are numerous Parkers in England, and the name is found in Ireland; but it is also claimed that it has been borne by Danes, Saxons and Normans. It is derived from the Latin *parcarius*, meaning one who keeps a park, and is thus a name of occupation. William M. and Harold T. Parker are of the fifth generation from William Parker, who died in 1808, and who was the

first of the line concerning whom anything definite is known. He lived in Westmoreland county, Pa., perhaps in that part now known as Washington county, in the region which formed part of the disputed territory between Virginia and Pennsylvania during the early days. It is thought probable that he came from Virginia. Though an old man when his son John moved northward into Armstrong county, he followed him thither, with several other families, settling on Bear creek. One of his sons was drowned on the journey, one of the boats upsetting when the party was opposite the garrison at Pittsburgh and several losing their lives. Soon after his arrival at the new home William Parker built a mill. His wife was a sister or half sister of John Moore, who was presiding judge of Westmoreland county, from 1785 to 1791, and who was a son of William and Jeannette (Wilson) Moore; as William Moore died and his widow remarried, becoming the wife of James Guthrie, it seems most likely that William Parker's wife was born to the second marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Parker had children: Samuel; John, who was the great-grandfather of William M. and Harold T. Parker; and Mary, who married Thomas McKee, one of the first two associate judges of Venango county.

John Parker, next in the line we are tracing, was born in 1766, and died July 17, 1842. He first came to this region about 1786 in the capacity of surveyor, being a deputy under Judge John Moore, and for his services in this line was given land in the new country, taking up twelve hundred acres in that part of Armstrong and Butler counties adjacent to what became known as Parkers Landing, on the Allegheny, so named in his honor. Nearly all the site of Parker City formerly belonged to him, and he was assessed as the owner (among other things) of one slave. He himself settled here in 1794, the family coming about two years later, in 1797, and though they were known as residents of Parkers Landing their house was on that part of the property lying in Butler county, at Parker. Mr. Parker was one of the most prominent men of his day, and one of the leaders of progress, doing all he could to attract settlers to the region. He was very successful in business, following farming and stock raising principally, and in 1815 laid out the village of Lawrenceburg, which now forms a part of Parker City. He was one of the first associate judges of the county, filling that office for thirty-five years, and was noted for his forethought and good judgment in all

matters, holding the confidence of all who knew him.

On Dec. 7, 1797, Mr. Parker married Jane Woods, who died July 5, 1833, and they had a large family, namely: James W., born June 14, 1799, married April 14, 1829, Margaret Hamilton, and died Aug. 24, 1833; John W. is mentioned in the next paragraph; Juliet, born Dec. 29, 1802, married April 21, 1822, John Gilchrist, and died Feb. 13, 1876; William, born Feb. 24, 1805, died Nov. 13, 1848; Fullerton, born Dec. 15, 1806, married April 5, 1832, Amelie Harris, and died Dec. 26, 1883; Washington, born July 11, 1809, married Oct. 15, 1833, Susan Clark, and died June 25, 1844; George, born Sept. 8, 1812, married June 20, 1843, Jane Pollock, and died Dec. 10, 1887; Thomas McKee, born Dec. 17, 1815, married Dec. 11, 1849, Margaret Woods, and died June 17, 1864; Wilson, born June 3, 1821, died Jan. 17, 1845.

John W. Parker was born Oct. 20, 1800, was married Jan. 8, 1822, to Margaret Perry, daughter of Moses and Sallie (Russell) Perry, and died July 24, 1861. His children were: William, born May 16, 1823, died July 4, 1899; he married Isabelle Pollock, and all their children died young except Robert Pollock. James, born May 4, 1825, died Sept. 8, 1894; he married Emma Leonard, and their children were John D., Mary Jane, Clara, Samuel, Reuben, Elizabeth, William, Keziah and Phoebe. Sarah, born July 18, 1827, married Samuel Craig, and died in October, 1903; her children were Elizabeth and Miranda. Elizabeth, born in 1829, died June 11, 1851, the wife of Dr. John T. Beatty, by whom she had three children, William and two others who died young. Margaret, born April 18, 1831, married Dr. Joseph W. Eggert and died Dec. 11, 1896; she had four children, John, George L., Elizabeth and Manda. John, born Oct. 9, 1833, died Sept. 15, 1901; he married Martha Jane Fitterer, and they had children, Alonzo S., Margaret Ann, Charles A., Katharine D., John W. and Ethel. Susan, born Aug. 29, 1835, died in 1915, married W. D. Riddle and (second) George W. Ball. Phoebe, born July 16, 1835, died in December, 1908; she was the wife of Jason Berry, and mother of Isabelle, Richard Jason and Charles Parker. George Washington was the father of William M. and Harold T. Parker.

GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKER, born Feb. 22, 1841, died March 28, 1913. He received a good practical education, attending the home schools and later studying at a business col-

lege in Pittsburgh, and first came to Oil City in 1861, though he did not make a permanent settlement then. During the Civil war he served a three months' term of enlistment with the 154th Pennsylvania Volunteers. In 1865, after the close of the war, he came back to Oil City and engaged in business as an oil shipper, first as a member of the firm of Parker, Castle & Co., and later as one of the firm of Parker, Thompson & Co., who had a wharf and enjoyed an extensive patronage. Mr. Parker was in this line until 1872, when he became connected with the Oil City National Bank as teller, and it was thereafter his principal interest, for he was promoted in time to cashier and eventually became president, retaining that office until his death. He was one of the directors of the bank for over fifteen years, and much of the prosperity of the bank should be attributed to his well known conservatism and sound judgment. Though careful and prudent in all his affairs, he was ever thoroughly progressive, and in nothing more so than in his ideas on community life and the responsibilities of citizenship. His attitude in such matters, and his public spirit in giving expression to them, was of so practical a turn, that he was often called upon to fill public positions, in which he acquitted himself with the greatest credit, showing the courage of his convictions and giving substantial evidence of his sincerity. When Oil City was incorporated as a city he was chosen a member of the first council, and served ten years in that body; for four years he was a member of the select council, and for fifteen years a member of the school board. Among his notable services as councilman may be mentioned his work as a member of the committee that secured the fine water supply which Oil City is now enjoying. That and many other improvements in the city were brought about with his cooperation.

On Nov. 4, 1869, Mr. Parker was married to Rebecca McCready, who was born June 19, 1850, daughter of William McCready, a paper manufacturer, of New Jersey, and died Jan. 8, 1909. They were the parents of three children, William M., Edith (born July 13, 1874) and Harold Thompson, the two sons surviving.

WILLIAM M. PARKER was born Dec. 19, 1870, in Oil City, and here obtained his preparatory education, graduating from the Oil City high school. He took his collegiate course at Princeton, graduating A. B. in 1891, after which he returned to Oil City and took up the study of law with F. W. Hays and John L. Mattox, meanwhile teaching mathematics in

the high school for two years. In 1895 he was admitted to the bar, and in May of that year formed his present association with Judson D. Trax, Trax and Parker occupying a leading place among the legal firms of this part of the State. Mr. Parker was soon granted permission to practice in the other courts of the State and United States, and has done notable work in his profession, he and his partner being intrusted with the conduct of many of the most difficult and particular cases brought into the local courts. Most of his energies have been devoted to his practice, which has become very extensive, and though a good Republican he has not given much time to politics or other public affairs except in his capacity of private citizen. He takes pride in his ownership of 180 acres of the original Parker tract in Butler county taken up by his great-grandfather, and which has been in the family name since 1794. Socially he holds membership in the Wanango Club and the Oil City Boat Club, being president of the latter, and his religious connection is with the Second Presbyterian Church.

On April 21, 1898, Mr. Parker married Helen Innis, and their children are: Helen Elizabeth, born July 18, 1899; Marian, born March 14, 1901; Warren Innis, born Sept. 9, 1902; Rebecca McCready, born Sept. 2, 1905; and William M., born Nov. 14, 1907.

HAROLD THOMPSON PARKER was born at Oil City Oct. 23, 1884, and grew up there, acquiring his early literary education in the public schools. He graduated from high school in 1902 and followed with a course at Princeton University, from which institution he was graduated in 1907 with the degree of A. B., upon his return to Oil City entering the law offices of Trax and Parker to prepare for the legal profession. After thorough grounding in legal principles and the routine of practice he passed the bar examination in 1911 and was admitted to practice in Venango county, where he has become well established, maintaining offices in the Trax and Parker building in Oil City. He has also been admitted to practice in the Supreme court of Pennsylvania. Mr. Parker has commanded a lucrative clientele from the beginning of his independent career, and he has succeeded in winning the public confidence to such an extent that he holds the position of county solicitor, having been honored with the appointment in 1916. He holds membership in the Lawyers' Club of Oil City, and socially is associated with the Ivy and Boat Clubs, serving as treasurer of the latter.

Mr. Parker married Mary Maxwell, daugh-

ter of Samuel L. and Harriet (Finley) Maxwell, of Oil City, where Mrs. Maxwell still resides. The late Samuel L. Maxwell was well known here, having been a prominent member of the Oil Exchange.

JAMES GILFILLAN LAMBERTON, late of Franklin, typified in both his business and his private life the characteristics which have made the name of Lamberton famous in this region for almost a century. Coming to that city in 1838, a few years after his older brother, Robert Lamberton, he showed himself to be of the same sturdy stuff, and having established a mercantile business in the pioneer period he had the breadth of character to extend his operations with the increase of opportunities made by the growth of the community, maintaining a leading place among the merchants of the locality throughout his active career. He became one of the most substantial citizens of his adopted place, and personally commanded the highest respect for his integrity and the honorable principles which guided him in all the relations of life. Born March 21, 1818, on the old homestead of his parents near Londonderry, in the North of Ireland, he was a son of William and Elizabeth (Gillilan) Lamberton and a descendant of an old family of Scotch origin.

The name is a very ancient one in Scotland, where it is found as far back as the eleventh century, Lambertons being among the land-holders of Ayrshire and Berwick-on-Tweed in the reign of King Edgar, 1097-1107. John de Lamberton was sheriff of Stirling from 1263 to 1265. One of the most renowned members of the family was William de Lamberton, Bishop of St. Andrew's, elected in 1297, and preferred to the episcopate of St. Andrew's by Pope Boniface VIII., 1298. As Bishop of St. Andrew's he was primate of all Scotland, and first peer of the kingdom, ranking next to the royal family and taking precedence accordingly. He crowned the sovereigns and was chancellor and legate of the Apostolic See. He was a friend of Sir William Wallace and Robert Bruce. After the defeat of the former at the battle of Falkirk, in 1298, Bishop Lamberton, the elder Bruce and Sir John Comyn were appointed regents of Scotland. He was one of three bishops to anoint and crown Robert Bruce king of Scotland, March 27, 1306, and adhered to King Robert through all his vicissitudes. He held ecclesiastical office for thirty years, dying in 1328.

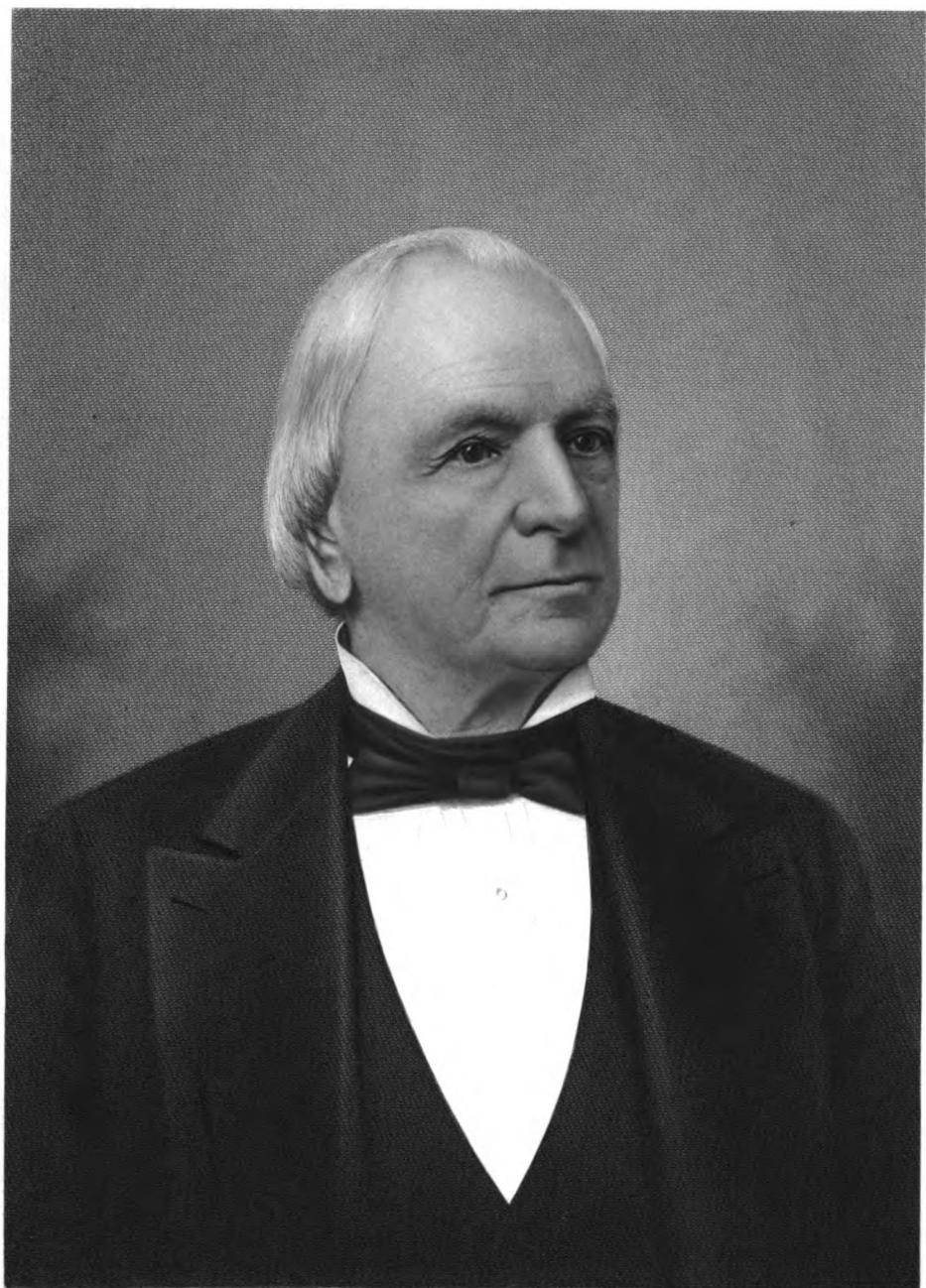
In 1321 there was an Alexander de Lamberton among the Scottish barons who signed the

famous letter to the Pope asserting the independence of Scotland, in which it was declared that "never, so long as one hundred Scots are alive, will we be subject to the yoke of England." During the religious persecution under the Stuarts, the Covenanters were maltreated and harassed until they were obliged to leave their own country, seeking refuge in Ireland. This exodus commenced after the battles of Pentland Hills, in 1666, and continued after the battle of Bothwell Bridge, in 1679. It is said that among those who sought refuge in Ireland were three brothers by the name of Lamberton, one settling at the Giants' Causeway, another near Londonderry, and the third in the same county.

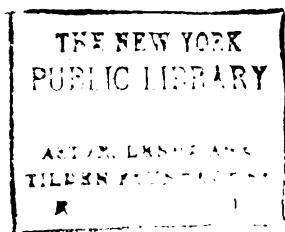
The arms of the Lamberton family are: Argent, three escallop shells, sable. Crest: A stag's head at gaze, St. Andrew's cross between the attires. Motto: *Volonte de Dieu*. As the arms would indicate, the early members of the family probably took part in the Crusades.

The second of the three brothers above mentioned was James Lamberton, who had a son Robert, born about 1739, and these were the ancestors of the line in which we are interested. William Lamberton, son of Robert, was born in 1773 and died March 2, 1849, his wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Gillilan, dying the same year, aged sixty-three. They had nine children, as follows: Robert, one of the foremost residents of Franklin, Pa., in his day, who is mentioned at length elsewhere in this work; Jane, who married Jared Irwin and (second) Dr. Bushnell, of Ohio; John, who lived and died in Ireland; James Gillilan, who came to this country and became a prominent citizen of Franklin, Pa.; William, who also settled in Venango county, Pa., and whose wife was Sarah Smullen; Ann, who became the wife of James Shannon and lived in Franklin, Pa.; Esther, who married John Mitchell and resided in Philadelphia, Pa.; Eliza, who married William Cunningham, and also lived in Philadelphia; and Martha, who married Samuel Cochran.

James Gilfillan Lamberton grew up in Ireland, spending his early years on the parental farm and receiving such educational privileges as the home schools offered. His brother having come to America and begun to prosper, he followed him to Franklin in the year 1838 and like him became one of the foremost men of his day in this section. By 1842 he had acquired enough experience and capital to encourage him in starting up for himself, and he embarked in the mercantile business in that year, meeting with such success that his store be-



James G. Laebelton



came one of the largest dry goods houses in the city. It was long before the days of railroads in this territory, and his stock came by boat from Pittsburgh. The natural resources of this part of Pennsylvania proved to be far beyond the estimates of the most sanguine of its early settlers, and as industries developed many were attracted by the opportunities for profitable employment, quickening trade in every line. Mr. Lamberton, alert to see the promise of the conditions which developed, bent every effort toward making his establishment a convenient trading center, and his stock and accommodations drew a large share of the local patronage. He continued in active business for a period of forty-five years, withdrawing from the mercantile trade in 1887, but retaining the oversight of the valuable interests he had acquired until his death, which occurred at Franklin Dec. 25, 1903. Public life and outside interests held little attraction for him, but he never neglected the duties of citizenship or social life, and his cooperation with all good movements could be counted upon. He was especially interested in the welfare of the Presbyterian Church, of which he was an active member for many years, holding the office of trustee.

Mr. Lamberton married Anna M. Whiting, who was born in Chester county, Pa., daughter of William and Elizabeth Whiting, and died in 1886. She is buried with her husband in the Franklin cemetery. Of their three children, (1) Henry Whiting is mentioned below. (2) Mary Jane, born in February, 1855, married James N. Craft, who is in the oil refining business, and had children, George L. and Anna C., the latter now the wife of J. G. Smith, a merchant of Warren, Pa. (they have one child, Horton); Mrs. Craft died in 1883. (3) Charles McGill is mentioned below.

HENRY WHITING LAMBERTON was born in Franklin, Pa., April 24, 1853, and obtained his early education there. Later he attended a preparatory school at Randolph, N. Y. His early business experience was acquired in his father's employ, in the capacity of clerk, and having familiarized himself with the details of the business he opened a store of his own in 1880, from that time until 1895 devoting most of his time and energies to the dry goods trade. Since withdrawing from that line he has found himself well occupied looking after his large real estate interests here. Mr. Lamberton has given important services to his townsmen as a city official, having served fifteen years as a member of the council, and for six years on the board of water commissioners. He has

numerous social connections, holding membership in the Franklin Club and the Elks Club, and affiliating with Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M., the chapter, and Franklin Commandery, K. T. His religious connection is with the Presbyterian Church.

On Dec. 7, 1897, Mr. Lamberton married Effie Hemphill, daughter of George W. and Catherine (Wilhelm) Hemphill. Mr. and Mrs. Lamberton have no children. Their home is at No. 1324 Elk street, Franklin, where he has resided during the greater part of his life.

CHARLES MCGILL LAMBERTON, younger son of the late James G. Lamberton, was born Feb. 16, 1857, in Franklin. He received his education in the grammar and high schools of his native place and at the Eastman business college, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., from which he was graduated Jan. 1, 1877. On Jan. 16, 1877, he began to work as a clerk in the Lamberton Bank of Oil City, where he was thoroughly trained in the details of banking, being employed in all the departments in turn and earning gradual promotion until he became cashier, in 1892, and one of the owners. He has been associated with the bank in this capacity since, and in that position and also as one of the owners has been influential in directing its policies and keeping them up to the high standards long ago established by the Lambertons in their financial operations. The bank was reorganized in 1900 as the Lamberton National Bank of Oil City, and the officers are R. G. Lamberton, president; S. H. Lamberton, vice president; C. M. Lamberton, cashier; R. G., S. H., C. M., Chess and Harry Lamberton, directors. E. S. Rugh is assistant cashier. With a capital of \$100,000, this bank according to the report made Sept. 17, 1917, had a surplus of over \$400,000, circulation of \$100,000 and deposits of \$3,390,193.74 (the total resources now are over four millions); in points of surplus and undivided profits to capital in the year 1915 it was first in the city and county, twenty-seventh in the State, and fifty-sixth in the United States. Its business record places it among the "Roll of Honor" banks, those "possessing surplus and profits in excess of capital, thus giving tangible evidence of strength and security." Less than twenty per cent. of the national banks in the United States are so listed. The Lamberton National Bank is a depository for State, United States and United States Postal funds.

Mr. Lamberton has acquired large property interests in Oil City and Franklin, and is a director of the Oil City Chamber of Commerce. He makes his home in Oil City, where he has

been very prominent socially, having been one of the organizers of the Venango Club, which he is now serving as president; one of the organizers of the Ivy Club, of which he was president for some years; a member of the Wanango Country Club; of the Oil City Boat Club; and an original member of the Elks Club of Oil City, of which he was the first treasurer. His church connection is with the Presbyterians. Mr. Lamberton is unmarried.

**EDWARD EVERETT HUGHES**, of Franklin, one of the leading professional and business figures in that city, is living up to the traditions of an ancestry famous for industrial enterprise, strong initiative and aggressive energy, which qualities have made various members of the family particularly valuable in the development of the resources of the communities in which they have settled. He is of the fourth generation of the Hughes family in Venango county, in whose progress they have taken a definite part ever since James Hughes came into this region, more than a century ago. As the name would indicate, the family is of Welsh origin, but Ellis Hughes, father of James Hughes, moved from Wales to the North of Ireland, and there James was born. He was young when his parents died, and some years of his early life were spent at Baltimore, Md., where he served an apprenticeship to the saddler's and harnessmaker's trade. Work in that line did not play much part in his independent business career, however, for he learned milling, and he and his brother Ellis settled in Butler county, Pa., where they operated the Negley mills. James Hughes married before his removal to Venango county, where he was a pioneer settler, and his intelligence and force of character soon brought him into prominence in the new country, where men of his calibre were needed to set the wheels of advancement in motion. He took up a tract of land lying along Bullion run, and settled at the mouth of Big Scrubgrass creek, in 1806 erecting a sawmill there which was one of the most important industrial ventures in the county. All the lumber for new buildings going up in that region was cut at his mill, which did a large business for the day. Several years later, in 1814, he made a much needed addition to his establishment, building a gristmill, the first in the region and for many years the only one for miles around. After a long and prosperous experience at his first location he removed to Cranberry township, this county, where he purchased and operated Slab Furnace, meeting with equal success in

the iron business. Some time later he bought Union Furnace near Cooperstown, investing ten thousand dollars in that plant, a large sum in his day. Here, in his later years, he had the misfortune to meet with reverses through no fault of his own, and his difficulties culminated with the panic of 1853, when he lost everything. He was beyond the age when he could undertake to retrieve his losses, and he lived thereafter with a daughter in Clinton township, where he died March 26, 1856. In religion he was a Methodist, and he became a member of the first church formed at Clintonville, and its first class leader. His honorable nature fitted him well for the place he filled, finding expression in all his dealings with his fellow men.

In 1802 Mr. Hughes married Nancy Shorts, who died Dec. 18, 1866. They became the parents of twelve children, ten of whom reached maturity, namely: Ellis married Urilla Davis; James is next in line to Edward Everett; Nancy married Rev. Jesse Benn; William married Sarah Cousins; Samuel married Ann Campbell; Jemina, born April 3, 1810, married Jacob Shorts, and died June 12, 1878; Jane, born May 18, 1812, married Robert Porter; Roland, born June 7, 1814, married in 1839 Susan Ridgway; Sarah, born Jan. 15, 1817, married Jesse Benn; Richard, born April 28, 1819, married Sarah Burchall in 1845.

James Hughes, son of James and Nancy (Shorts) Hughes, was born March 29, 1804. He grew up in primitive surroundings, and acquired a sturdy independence of character which won him the unqualified esteem of all who knew him. In the spring of 1826 he removed to Waterford, Erie county, this State, and after a year there located in Rockland township, Venango county, where he built a sawmill and gristmill, giving most of his time to operating same. Thence he removed to East Sandy, in Cranberry township, where he also built mills and carried them on until the spring of 1837, when he exchanged these properties for a farm three and a half miles east of Franklin. He made his home there until 1862, and for the next three years lived on the east side of the Allegheny river at Franklin, thereafter living in the town until his death, which occurred Jan. 31, 1888. An honored citizen, and strong in the confidence of his associates, he was elected justice of the peace a number of times, serving twenty-seven years in that office.

On March 23, 1824, James Hughes married Mary Mallory, daughter of Nathaniel Mallory, who had served as a sergeant in the Revolu-

tionary war. Nathaniel Mallory was a man of stern, positive character, and when his daughter Mary became a convert to the Methodist faith he was so bitterly opposed to the idea that he threatened to disinherit her if she did not leave the denomination. The girl had a will like his own, however, and when she refused was given her clothing and sent from home, which she left after offering a prayer for the family. For a year she lived at the home of James Ford, in Crawford county, meanwhile teaching school. Coming with the Ford family and Rev. Seely Parker to Wolf Creek campmeeting, her story was heard by James Hughes, Sr., who offered her a home in his family, and there, too, she taught school. James Hughes, Jr., received private instruction from her, at home, and their marriage took place not long after. Her husband also joined the Methodist Church, in which he served as steward and class leader, holding the latter position for seven years.

To James and Mary (Mallory) Hughes were born fourteen children, and Mr. Hughes survived the mother and all but three of the children. Of the nine who survived, John W., born Dec. 22, 1825, married June 21, 1849, Mary Ridgway, and had children, Helena (Mrs. William Shaffer), Wilson (married Anna Royer), Clinton Wesley (married Mary Kennedy) and Charles (deceased). William, born July 30, 1829, married Nov. 28, 1850, Eleanor Bunnell, and died Feb. 19, 1854. Henry M. was the father of Edward Everett Hughes. Roland, born Feb. 28, 1834, died July 15, 1858. Sarah Jane, born May 5, 1836, died Feb. 23, 1840. Nathaniel, born Sept. 5, 1840, died in July, 1861. Nancy Ann, born Sept. 14, 1842, married Sept. 2, 1861, Plympton Hill, and their children were Lewis P. (born May 14, 1863, married Minnie Pitton and had Dora, Lucille, Nina, Minnie and Nancy) and Dora (born April 14, 1865, married Ralph Mattern and has Edwin and Wilda). Phebe Armina, born June 14, 1845, died Sept. 30, 1851. Martin B., born May 16, 1847, married Catherine Stevens, and died in Dec., 1909. In 1862 Mr. Hughes married (second) Mrs. Mary Steele, widow of George Steele and daughter of Moses Hill.

Henry M. Hughes, son of James and Mary (Mallory) Hughes, was born May 12, 1831, in Rockland township, Venango county, and received his early education in the common schools of the county. Later he attended an academy in Nelson, Ohio, and studied at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., being allowed all the advantages possible. From 1857 until

he entered the service during the Civil war he was a resident of Kansas, where though only a young man his ability and intelligence won him recognition and responsibility. He was elected superintendent of public instruction, acted as deputy sheriff and recorder of deeds, clerk of the County, Probate and District courts, and was elected marshal of Paola. He was appointed enrolling clerk of the legislature, and as such had the honor of enrolling duplicate copies of the Wyandotte constitution, under whose provisions Kansas was admitted into the Union as a free State; he was, moreover, one of the public-spirited workers who labored to keep slavery out of Kansas. Returning to Pennsylvania, Mr. Hughes enlisted in October, 1861, in Company K, 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and was soon chosen first lieutenant, with which rank he was mustered in Oct. 18th. On Nov. 1, 1862, he became captain, serving as such until the expiration of his term, Oct. 18, 1864. On Dec. 24, 1862, he became captain and assistant inspector general, 2d Brigade, 2d Division, Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac. Until May, 1862, he was on duty in the vicinity of Washington; and during that year he took part in the following engagements: Mechanicsville, Va., June 26; James Mill, June 27; Peach Orchard, June 29; White Oak Swamp, June 30; Malvern Hill, July 1; was on duty at Harrison's Landing and Yorktown until September; Rockville, Md., Sept. 11; Frederick, Sept. 12; South Mountain, Sept. 14; Antietam, Sept. 17; expedition in pursuit of Stuart, Oct. 6-16; Upperville, Va., Nov. 3; Markham Station, Nov. 4; Jefferson, Nov. 7; Fredericksburg, Dec. 13. He was assistant inspector general and chief of staff to Gen. J. Irving Gregg, in General Burnside's second campaign, Jan. 20-24, 1863; following with the engagements at Hartwood Church, Feb. 25; Kelly Ford, March 17; Chancellorsville, April 29-May 6; Dumfries, May 17; Beverly Ford, June 9; Aldie, June 18; Middleburg, June 19-21; Hanover Junction, Pa., June 30; Gettysburg, July 2-3; Steven's Furnace, July 5; Shepherdstown, Va., July 16; Oakshade, Sept. 13; James City, Oct. 10-11; Sulphur Springs, Oct. 12; Bristoe Station, Oct. 13; Rappahannock Station, Nov. 7; Mine Run, Nov. 26-Dec. 2; and was at Camp Stoneman until May 12, 1864. He took part in the actions at Guinea Station, May 21, 1864; North Anna, May 23-27; Hawes Shop, May 28; Old Church Tavern, May 30; Cold Harbor, June 1-6; Trevillian Station, June 11; Whitehaven, June 21; St. Mary's Church, June 24-25; Proctor's Hill, July 1-3; Warwick Swamp,

July 12; Four Mile, July 27; Deep Bottom, Aug. 13-15; White Tavern, Aug. 16; Reams Station, Aug. 23-25; Gunley House, Sept. 2; Vaughn Road, Sept. 29-30. His record of service may well be a matter of pride to his descendants.

Upon leaving the army Captain Hughes settled at Plumer, Pa., and after some connection with the United States Revenue service went into the oil business, becoming one of the organizers of the Antwerp Pipe Line Company, of which he was secretary. He handled the duties of his position so ably that when the Antwerp was consolidated with the United Pipe Lines he was similarly placed in the new organization. He died in his prime, Sept. 9, 1885, at Valparaiso, Saunders Co., Nebraska.

On Nov. 27, 1859, Captain Hughes married Frances A. Richardson, who was born Feb. 9, 1840, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Rice) Richardson, and died Feb. 22, 1901. Nine children were born to this marriage, namely: Harry R., born Aug. 19, 1860, married Gertrude Cunningham and (second) Charlotte Clark, and had four children, Gertrude (born to the first union), Marguerite, Francis and Charlotte. Edward Everett was next in the order of birth. Albert Duncan, born May 31, 1865, married and had five children. Virginia Ella, born Sept. 2, 1867, was married Feb. 17, 1886, to Harry Lamberton. Eugene Emmer-son, born Feb. 7, 1870, married Belle Jones and had two daughters, Virginia and Elizabeth. Nina May, born Sept. 22, 1872, became the wife of Morris Cummings. Ural Sumner was born April 21, 1875. Annetta Lulu Lorraine, born March 27, 1877, became the wife of Charles E. Rogers and had three children, Louise, Richard Bigley and Robert, the last named deceased. Frances Amenta, born May 24, 1881, married Robert E. Moorehead and had two children, Robert (who died young) and Mary Louise.

Edward Everett Hughes, the second child of his parents, was born March 14, 1862, at Shippensburg, Pa. He was carefully educated, attending the Allegheny Preparatory School at Meadville, Pa., and later entering the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. Having completed his literary course he took up the study of law at Franklin, reading in the offices of Lee and Criswell, and he was admitted to the bar in 1886, since when he has been in practice at Franklin. His legal training not only led him into congenial professional work in the handling of others' interests, but has also been of inestimable value in the care of his own affairs, his business ventures having

worked out very satisfactorily. When a receiver was to be appointed for the Franklin Rolling Mills Mr. Hughes was chosen for the position, and he has been associated with the conduct of the plant ever since. The company was successfully reorganized under his guidance and its affairs shaped upon a substantial basis, and as vice president and general manager he has continued to be influential in directing its policy. The establishment is now the Franklin Steel Works, one of the plants of the Chicago Railway Equipment Company. Mr. Hughes is a serious and effective worker, conserving the matters intrusted to his care with consummate skill, with due regard for the smallest essential detail but without fuss of any kind, and his connection with any movement is a guarantee of its sincerity of purpose and reliability.

On June 25, 1889, Mr. Hughes was united in marriage with Susan Taylor Mackey, daughter of Capt. Charles W. Mackey. They have two sons: Henry Mallory, born April 20, 1890, a graduate of Cornell University; and Charles Mackey, born Sept. 23, 1899.

JAMES STORY McCRAY (deceased) was in his day one of the foremost men in the Pennsylvania oil fields, probably one of the largest oil producers in the world. Born Nov. 16, 1824, about a mile below Titusville, Pa., on what was known as "Watson's Flats," he was a son of William McCray and a member of one of the pioneer families of the region, his grandfather, William McCray, from the North of Ireland, having early settled near Titusville, where he lived and died. He had a large family, namely: James; Robert; William; John; Samuel; Margaret, wife of Jacob Young; Nancy, wife of David Sims; Elizabeth, wife of James Felton; Sarah, wife of George McCray; Ellen, wife of Benjamin Upton; Jane, wife of Samuel Moore; and Mary, Mrs. Stephen Hosmer.

William McCray, father of James Story McCray, was born in 1799, and died June 28, 1861, in his sixty-third year. He is interred in the old burial ground at Plumer, was a lifelong member of the old U. P. Church at that place, and a Democrat in politics. An early settler in Cornplanter township, he resided first on the Lamb farm near Plumer, thence removing to the famous McCray tract near Petroleum Center which later became renowned for its rich oil resources. He spent his days there engaged in farming, giving the better part of his life to its improvement and development. Mr. McCray married Elizabeth

Story, daughter of Buchanan Story, and she, too, is buried at Plumer. Three sons and six daughters were born to this union, namely: James Story, mentioned below; Robert, who died young; William Jackson, born June 6, 1834, who married Anna McCray (they are mentioned elsewhere in this work); Elizabeth, who married Henry Sedoris; Nancy A., who married Joseph McCaslin; Mary E., who married J. M. Goudy; Margaret, who married John Wilson; Isabella, who married Gilson Eakin; and Rachel H., who married Robert Eakin and (second) C. M. Carner. The mother died in 1841, and the father subsequently married (second) Mary Prather, who died in 1867. There were no children by this union.

James Story McCray came to this section when a mere boy, living with his parents on the Lamb farm near Plumer until they settled on the McCray place at what later became well known as Petroleum Center, nearly half surrounded by the creek along whose margin, directly at the base of the hill upon which the farm is situated, were several of the largest flowing wells of the Pennsylvania oil fields, which, together with the infinite number of good pumping wells that perforated the ground in the immediate vicinity in that territory, made it one of the most remunerative in the history of oil development. Mr. McCray had such education as the local public schools offered, attending an old log school in the home township during the winter months, and during the summer seasons assisting with the work on the home place, which comprised two hundred and fifty acres. He remained at home until twenty-two years old, and when he left to start on his own account had but two dollars in his pocket. During the next two years he was employed at various sawmills in the adjacent lumber region, along the Allegheny river, above Oil City, and by hard work and enterprising economy was able, at the age of twenty-five years, to buy a team and take up the land which now constitutes the McCray farm, paying two thousand dollars for the property. By constant industry at farming and lumbering he continued to augment his possessions and lay the foundation for a comfortable home, and when twenty-eight years old he married Martha G. Crooks, of Venango county, who proved a valuable helpmate in the days of their humble beginning and an invaluable guide when the flood of fortune, which might have unsettled a steadier head, rolled upon him. Of all the remarkable records made after the discovery of petroleum in this

region, there is none more phenomenal than that of the development on the McCray farm and its immediate vicinity, at Wild Cat, Petroleum Center and the Egbert farm. Though for eight years the sources of supply were sapped to an unheard-of extent, yet in October, 1870, six months after oil was struck on the hill, this farm produced over twenty-seven hundred barrels a day, yielding to its owners the enormous income of more than six thousand dollars a day, though but little more than half the production was his.

When the news of Drake's success spread like wildfire up and down the country, drawing crowds of curious and excited visitors, Mr. McCray, associated with several others, formed a company and took a lease of two acres on the Buchanan farm at Rouseville. This lease proved a remunerative bargain, but before the first well was down Mr. McCray took advantage of an opportunity to sell his interest, and he soon afterward secured a lease on the Blood farm, adjoining his own. It was here that he made his first great success in oil operations. He had obtained a most valuable lease from his old neighbor, who still held the farm, and there in company with several partners put down the famous "Maple Shade Well," struck Aug. 5, 1863, which flowed eight hundred barrels a day for ten months. After realizing twenty-five thousand dollars in this venture Mr. McCray sold his interest in the lease for fifty thousand dollars. In 1863 Dr. Egbert acquired possession of the strip of bottom land along Oil Creek, at the base of "McCray Hill," where the first success of any importance in the immediate vicinity had been met in the spring of 1861, the Hollister well having been opened there, on a triangular tract at the foot of McCray Hill known as the Hyde and Egbert farm. There the renowned "Coquette Well," which began to flow twelve hundred barrels a day and yielded eight hundred daily for a considerable period, was struck almost on the McCray line, and Dr. Egbert accordingly took a lease of all that terrace called the McCray Flats, which adjoined his own property, giving three eighths of the oil as royalty. He began developments without delay, and the first three wells sunk averaged about three hundred barrels of oil a day for a long time, of course netting a handsome revenue to Mr. McCray and piling up wealth for him. In all there were eight wells sunk on his land at the foot of the hill. In 1865, while the production was at its height, Mr.

McCray refused a clear half million in cash for his farm.

Early in the spring of 1870 Keffer & Watson, operating on the Dalzell tract, on top of the hill, struck a well which began to flow four hundred barrels a day. It was near the McCray line, hence leases on the McCray farm on the top of the hill were immediately in anxious demand, and would-be operators were clamoring to obtain them at any cost. Mr. McCray fixed a uniform price of a thousand dollars per acre, bonus, and half the oil, and many were ready to venture production even on these terms. He also began operating himself on a large scale, and the field proved so productive that there is probably not another piece of land equal in size anywhere in the Pennsylvania oil regions on which are to be seen as great a number of derricks. Operations paid so well, and the yield increased so rapidly, that six months after Keffer & Watson's strike, in October, 1870, the McCray farm piped twenty-seven hundred and thirty barrels of oil daily. About seventeen hundred barrels of this production were Mr. McCray's own, and for a time he had probably the largest revenue ever received by a single firm from the production of petroleum. Yet with all these exciting experiences he retained his thrifty, honest and industrious character, the greatest ambition which he and his wife had, in the acquisition of their large fortune, being to give their children a better chance in life than they themselves had enjoyed. From the commencement of operations in 1871 to July, 1873, the production on the McCray farm reached, if it did not exceed, five hundred thousand barrels, one half of which was turned over to Mr. McCray. He was a man of active temperament, and developed marked business ability in the handling of his land as oil property, and though he worked hard enjoyed fine health throughout his long career, being blessed with a vigorous constitution.

In 1872 Mr. McCray purchased the elegant private residence of Mr. Brough in Franklin, Venango county, and there resided from that time until his death, Oct. 14, 1889. Honored and respected for his personal integrity, his civic enterprise, and his substantial worth as a neighbor and friend, the oil region lost one of its best citizens in his death. His wife had passed away March 4th of the same year, and they are buried in the Franklin cemetery. Of their three children, Cornetha, the only daughter, born Dec 19, 1855, died in 1871, and is buried at Franklin; William Preston is men-

tioned below; Willis Elmer, born June 30, 1861, is in the West.

WILLIAM PRESTON McCRAY, eldest son of James Story McCray, was born Nov. 2, 1857, on the McCray homestead farm in Cornplanter township, Venango county, and has spent all his life in this section. He received his education at Franklin, and his connection with the oil business began in 1874, as his father's assistant. When eighteen years old he became interested in the industry on his own account, and he has made a notable success in it, though his energies have not been devoted exclusively to this line. For several years he was engaged in merchandising at Petroleum Center, where he served as postmaster four years. Then he gave all his time to the production of oil on the homestead place and to the agricultural development of the property as well, settling there in 1879, when he purchased it. It was originally the old McElhenney farm. The property now comprises three hundred and fifty acres and is considered one of the most desirable along Oil creek. There is still a good production of oil on the place. In 1881 Mr. McCray acquired a half interest in land formerly owned by the Central Petroleum Company, but disposed of the same two years later to Henry Wilbert. In all his personal and business associations Mr. McCray has endeavored to sustain the high reputation which his father enjoyed, and which has long done honor to the name. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Franklin, and well known in the local membership of the A. O. U. W., which he joined when nineteen years old. Though not closely identified with public affairs he has always taken a good citizen's interest in the general welfare, and he has served six years as road supervisor in Cornplanter township.

On March 20, 1879, Mr. McCray married Kate D. Espy, daughter of George P. and Mary (Jewell) Espy, and they have two children: Lottie May married Charles V. Young and has one son, Charles Raymond, born Oct. 20, 1909; they reside in Oil City, where Mr. Young is associated with the National Transit Company; he entered the military service during the Spanish-American war, and was in the army for two years. Orrin Delbert McCray, only son of William P. McCray, married Lena May Perry, and they have one son, William Preston 2d, born Dec. 29, 1917. They reside on the McCray farm, Mr. McCray assisting in its management, in which connec-

tion he is becoming well and favorably known among business men.

HON. ROBERT F. GLENN, attorney at law, of Franklin, Venango county, could not receive a better compliment than to be called a thoroughly typical representative of the name he bears. The Glenn family in every generation has had members who were men of thought and action, influential in molding public opinion and piloting it in the right direction, and those of the present day are no exception. Rev. Robert Glenn, the father of Robert F. Glenn, was a Presbyterian minister in this county from 1832 until his death, and from his day until now the name has been associated with the best intelligence and the best citizenship which Venango could boast. Reading between the lines of the bare record of their activities, we may discern energy of thought and purpose which could not fall short of useful accomplishment.

Mr. Glenn was born Feb. 8, 1851, in French Creek township, Venango county. The family is of Scotch-Irish origin. James Glenn, great-grandfather of Robert F. Glenn, was the first of the family in this region, removing to Butler county from York county, Pa., prior to the year 1800. He was one of the early farmers in his district, and most respected as a citizen. His wife was a sister of Lord Nelson, of England, and they spent the remainder of their lives in Butler county, where they are buried. Among their children was a son Samuel.

Samuel Glenn, son of James Glenn, was a young man when he accompanied his father from York county to western Pennsylvania before 1800. He was occupied as a farmer and bridge builder. Later he located in the adjoining county of Mercer, in Pennsylvania, where he died when about eighty years of age. He married a Miss Cunningham, of what was then Pinegrove township, Butler county, and they had four children, namely: Robert; Cunningham, who died when a young man, leaving two sons and one daughter; Mrs. John Pew, who died in Mercer county; and Mrs. Joseph Pew (the sisters married brothers), who lived in West Virginia.

Rev. Robert Glenn, son of Samuel Glenn, was born March 22, 1802, in Wolf Creek township, Mercer Co., Pa. He was highly educated and became one of the early ministers of the Presbyterian Church in western Pennsylvania. After attending the academy at Canonsburg, Pa., and graduating from Jefferson College, in 1828, he entered the Western Theological Semi-

nary, at Allegheny; and on the 3d of February, 1831, at a meeting of the Presbytery of Erie held at Mercer, Pa., was licensed to preach. The ensuing year he spent chiefly in supplying the vacant pulpits of the congregations at Amity, Mill Creek and Sandy Lake. At a meeting of the Presbytery of Erie held at Mill Creek, Sept. 12, 1832, he was ordained and installed pastor of the congregation at Mill Creek, Venango county, also giving part of his time to Amity and Sandy Lake. He made his home at Mill Creek, where he had a farm and reared his family. On April 3, 1850, Mr. Glenn discontinued serving the charge at Amity and about the same time that at Sandy Lake, and on June 18, 1850, became the pastor of the Big Sugar Creek Church, supplying both Big Sugar Creek and Mill Creek until his death, which occurred Sept. 6, 1857. He is buried in Mill Creek Church cemetery. Mr. Glenn did notable work in advancing educational facilities in his neighborhood. Largely through his influence select schools were organized and competent teachers secured, and when no more suitable place could be had the church building at Mill Creek was used for school purposes—a modern idea which then found little favor among the strict Presbyterians who worshipped there. It was principally due to his efforts that the commodious building of the Utica Academy, since destroyed by fire, was erected in 1855.

Mr. Glenn married, in Mercer county, Rebecca Wycoff, who was born in Crawford county, Pa., a daughter of John Wycoff and of Holland-Dutch ancestry. John Wycoff settled in Blooming Valley, Crawford Co., Pa., and later in Mercer county. Mrs. Glenn died fifteen years after her marriage, leaving the following children: Sarah J., who was the wife of Thomas Alexander, of Mercer county, died in 1878; Eliza B. became the wife of Rev. W. W. McKinney, a Presbyterian minister, who later located in Philadelphia, where he published the church paper known as "The Presbyterian"; Caroline F. married James Cassidy, of Utica, Pa., and died June 8, 1863; William Wycoff died in Coos county, Oregon; Samuel M. became a Presbyterian minister, educated in the same institutions as his father, and recently died at Wooster, Ohio (for a time he was the Presbyterian minister at Clintonville, Venango county); Dr. John Bowman Glenn is mentioned elsewhere in this work. For his second wife Rev. Robert Glenn married Mary Ann McCracken, who lived only eight months afterward. On Dec. 10, 1849, he married (third) Harriet Finley, of Evansburg.

Crawford Co., Pa., who survived him. Three children were born to this marriage: Hon. Robert F.; George Stuart, born Aug. 12, 1855, who died Feb. 18, 1873; and Harriet A., who resides in the city of Franklin. In 1887 Mrs. Glenn moved to the village of Utica, where she lived most highly esteemed by everyone, until her death May 19, 1901.

Robert F. Glenn was given an excellent education, and when a young man taught several years. He read law with Judge Christopher Heydrick, of Franklin, and was admitted to the Venango county bar in 1878, shortly afterward forming a law partnership with James D. Hancock which continued until April 1, 1887. Law practice has occupied a large share of his time, and his legal experience aided him greatly in the performance of his public duties, chief among which have been his service in the State legislature (1887-1888) and as chief executive of the city of Franklin. He first took office as mayor in 1909, and served four successive years. He has always been a good citizen and a leader in public affairs, every worthy movement finding a valuable friend in him. He is a Democrat in political opinion. Mr. Glenn holds membership in a number of the local social bodies, including the Masonic fraternity, affiliating with Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M.; Franklin Commandery, No. 44, K. T., and other bodies.

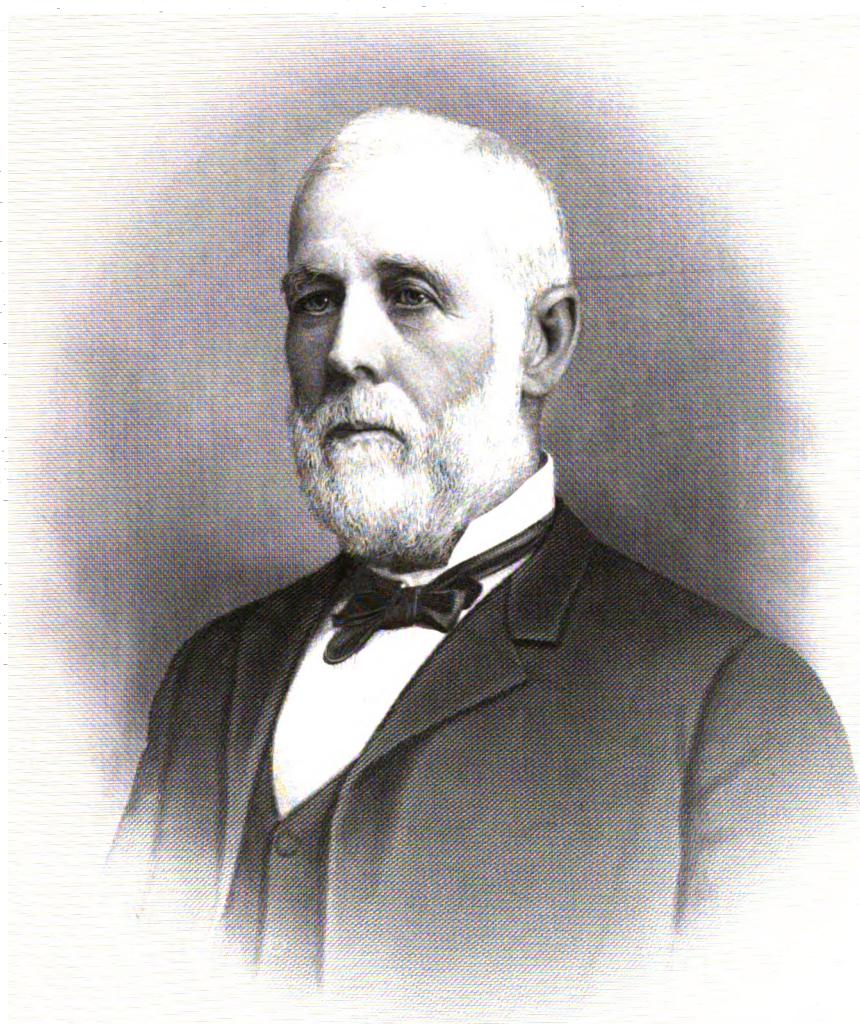
On June 23, 1881, Mr. Glenn was married to Harriet Miller, youngest daughter of Isaac and Margaret D. Miller, of Greensburg, Pa., and they have had three children: (1) Donald is mentioned below. (2) Helen graduated from Vassar College in 1907, and for several years was in charge of social service at the University of Pennsylvania before receiving her present appointment, as State supervisor of mothers' pensions, from Governor Brumbaugh in 1915. She is the first incumbent of this position in Pennsylvania. (3) Elizabeth graduated from Vassar College in 1915 and is now a student in the medical department of the University of Pittsburgh. In religion the family are Presbyterians.

DONALD GLENN, only son of Hon. Robert F. Glenn, has been engaged in the practice of law at Franklin since his admission to the Venango county bar in 1909, as a member of the firm of Glenn & Glenn. He has served as city solicitor of Franklin since his appointment in 1914, and in 1913-15—two terms—represented this district in the State legislature, being the youngest member of that body during his connection with it. He was elected on the Democratic ticket, in spite of the fact that the district is

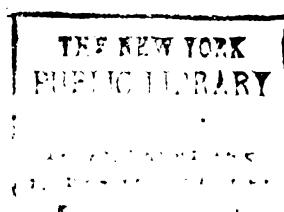
strongly Republican, and in all his public service has exemplified a spirit which makes him worthy of the confidence of his fellow citizens. Though a lawyer he has also had technical training as an engineer, having taken the course in Washington and Jefferson College and served for some time as an engineer in the State Highway Department. He also helped to build the Franklin & Clearfield railroad, and has just received a commission as captain in the engineers' division of the Officers' Reserve Corps, subject to call into active service at any time. His comprehensive experience in railroad building and road making qualify him for responsible work and he enters the government service with every prospect of a useful career, having passed the examinations with high honors.

FORSTER W. MITCHELL, late of Franklin, may be fittingly referred to as one of the most influential men of his generation in Venango county and all that section of Pennsylvania. Without any idea of minimizing the achievements of his contemporaries, or emphasizing his own unduly, he must be given credit for having done perhaps more than any other one man of his day in the matter of directing the city and county toward their present-day status materially and socially. The bare record of his association with local activities bears this out fully without comment. It is an outline of participation in enterprises so varied in nature, so valuable in their relation to the community, and so broad in conception, that reading between the lines we find a life story not often equalled and seldom exceeded for interest or accomplishment. Mr. Mitchell was born May 7, 1828, near Millhall, Center Co., Pa. He was a son of Thomas Mitchell and grandson of Rev. David Mitchell, the latter a native of the North of Ireland and of old Scotch stock. He settled in Center county, Pa., and for many years was a Methodist Episcopal preacher in this State. He had sons Thomas and James.

Thomas Mitchell, son of Rev. David Mitchell, was born near Bellefonte, Center Co., Pa., about 1800, and died in 1870 at Ashtabula, Ohio. He was long a resident of Venango county, Pa., having settled on a farm near Pleasantville, in Allegheny township, in April, 1836, and besides operating his farm conducted a general store. Subsequently he removed to Ohio. His first wife, Eliza (Lamb), died in 1851, and he afterward married Jane Weir. His children by the first marriage were as follows: David H., who married Delia



J. W. Mitchell



Sophia Wilson and became a resident of Titusville, Pa.; John L., born April 10, 1826, who was married Feb. 21, 1867, to Harriet Raymond; Forster W., mentioned below; Sarah Jane, who married Judge James L. Connely, of Philadelphia, Pa.; Martha, wife of L. T. Lamberton, of Franklin, Pa.; Minerva E., wife of Alexander W. Brown, of Pleasantville, Pa.; and William, Melvina, Charles R. and Mary J., all of whom died at an early age. Mr. Mitchell's three children by his second wife died in their youth.

Forster W. Mitchell was eight years old when he accompanied his parents to Venango county, Pa., and here he grew up, on his father's farm at Pleasantville. As his father's assistant he early became familiar with farming and lumbering, as well as merchandising, but though the rather hard conditions of his early years deprived him of educational advantages they had their practical value, developing perseverance, self-reliance and courage, qualities which were evident throughout his life. Nor was he less noted for his strong mental characteristics and strict sense of responsibility. In 1859, when Colonel Drake struck his well, Mr. Mitchell was engaged in merchandising and lumbering, and he shared the general excitement, being one of the first to view the fifteen-barrel wonder. He lost no time in securing a lease on a portion of the Buchanan farm, on the bank of Oil creek at the mouth of Cherry run, and beginning drilling, which was then done by the primitive and laborious spring pole method, and his was said to be the third well in operation after Drake's. It paid well, the flow beginning at seventy-five barrels a day and continuing for six months and more, and from that time until near the close of his active business career Mr. Mitchell was extensively and successfully engaged in the production of oil. Among the lands which he purchased and developed was the Shaw farm, near Rouseville, and he was interested in the Bullion field and the Bradford field, in the former owning the "Big Injun" well in company with John H. Lee and Hon. W. R. Crawford, and in the latter being associated with Capt. J. T. Jones, of Buffalo, N. Y., and the late George H. Van Vleck, of Toledo, Ohio. The "Big Injun" had the high record of the district, flowing over three thousand barrels June 18, 1877.

In March, 1865, Mr. Mitchell moved to Franklin, where he made his home permanently, and in addition to caring for his oil interests he became engaged in banking for a number of years. He was always alert

to conserve or advance the interests of those engaged in the various activities allied with the oil industry. His discernment and practical common sense made his counsel particularly valuable in emergencies, and his initiative saved the day often when a strong leader was needed to take hold of a trying situation. The early days of the oil country development were marked by much haphazard speculation and wild fluctuations which would ruin investors if allowed to continue, and Mr. Mitchell's influence was always a steady factor when conditions were adversely affected by such operations. He took an active part in the various movements made by the producers for their protection, being one of the heavy operators on the market, and the advance in the price of crude oil in 1880, from sixty cents to a dollar and twenty-seven cents, was known as "Mitchell's boom."

In 1870, in company with F. H. Steel, Mr. Mitchell opened a bank at Rouseville, Venango county. The business was removed to Oil City in 1883, and there for over twenty years the firm of F. W. Mitchell & Co. was prominent in financial circles. George V. Forman was associated with Messrs. Mitchell and Steel for some years, being succeeded in 1882 by W. H. Wise, of Oil City. When the banking business was discontinued, in 1894, Mr. Mitchell withdrew from active business pursuits.

Throughout his residence in Franklin Mr. Mitchell was looked upon as one of its public-spirited citizens, devoting both time and means to promote the material progress of the city of his adoption. He gave the ground which is now the site of the city buildings and Opera House. In 1875 Governor Hartranft appointed him a member of the Centennial commission, and he served as treasurer of the board during the Exposition.

On May 17, 1850, Mr. Mitchell was united in marriage with Laura M. Wilson, daughter of Alonzo and Lucy (Rowe) Wilson, and they spent their early married life at Enterprise, Pa. Mrs. Mitchell died in 1907, Mr. Mitchell surviving her until Dec. 15, 1912, when he passed away in his apartments at the "Exchange Hotel" in Franklin. They rest in the family mausoleum in Franklin cemetery. Of the three children born to them, Herbert W. died in youth. Lottie M., of Paris, France, married Dilworth Richardson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who is deceased. They had one daughter, Dorothy, born March 23, 1888, died Nov. 13, 1910. Stella V. is the wife of Bryan H. Osborne, of Franklin, Pa. They have one

daughter, Geraldine, born May 28, 1891, and married June 16, 1917, to Frederick Studebaker Fish, of South Bend, Indiana.

Mr. Mitchell was an invalid much of the time during the last four years of his life, though he kept his clear mind and serenity of spirit to the end. His enjoyment of his friends, and his faculty for friendship, was one of his most charming traits of character. He liked congenial company and social pleasures, and was never so delighted as when extending the hospitality of his home to some loved friend. His gift for reading human nature no doubt influenced him in selecting his companions, and for that reason he had few disappointments in them, for he chose them for their real worth, not their material standing. With his fine presence and cordial, courteous manners, he fairly radiated good cheer and wholesomeness wherever he went, and the pleasure of his society lent attraction to every circle. Though he attained a good old age he kept alive his interest in the progress of the times, tenacious of nothing belonging to the past except the loving memories of family and friends.

CHARLES H. DUNCAN, one of Oil City's leading men of affairs, now retired, is one of the oldest survivors of those who have followed the oil business in this section of the country, having passed his eighty-first year. The Penn American Refining Company stands as a monument of his years of successful activity. In Oil City there are a number of public works with whose promotion he was prominently identified, attesting to his unselfish loyalty in matters affecting the general welfare. Mr. Duncan accomplished his own advancement by hard work and persistent effort and has given liberally of his business talents and counsel in helping to secure desirable conditions in his community, from the modern standpoint. The path to success was not a smooth one, as many obstacles were encountered which would have discouraged many a young man starting out on a career in life, but not so with Mr. Duncan. He was possessed of that Scotch determination and tenacity which in the end conquers.

Mr. Duncan was born February 5, 1838, in Baltimore county, Md., of Scotch-Irish stock. He located in Pittsburgh when a youth but eighteen years of age, and there began business life as a clerk in the freight department of the Pennsylvania Railroad. At that time another Scotchman was beginning a career at the same place, Andrew Carnegie, who was a

telegraph operator in the office of the superintendent. Later, excitement occasioned by the discovery of oil in Venango county attracted young Duncan. At the time he was bookkeeper for Spang, Chalfont & Company at Pittsburgh. He told the members of the firm he wanted to go to the oil fields. John W. Chalfont, member of the firm, encouraged him, although he said he would be sorry to lose his services, but it was commendable in any young man to look ahead for himself. His employer told him that his determination to change was an experiment, and if he did not succeed his old position with the firm was always open to him.

At the time Mr. Duncan was not blessed with any great amount of finances in his venture, and Mr. Chalfont, knowing this, gave him credit on the firm for twelve thousand dollars and told him in contracting business obligations to settle with all others first and with his firm last. Mr. Duncan then headed for the new oil fields and at Pithole, where investors and promoters were thronging, he cast his lot. Pithole was one of the most noted towns of oil boom days and he remained there for some years, serving as mayor for two terms when its prosperity was at its zenith. The towns of mushroom growth which sprang in the oil regions presented all the elements of lawlessness and reckless expenditure which seemed to be inseparable from this kind of development. A "wide open" policy prevailed under which saloons, gambling houses and other vicious institutions flourished, and it was only through the determined effort of Mr. Duncan and a handful of men of that kind that a semblance of civilized order was maintained. At that time General Wiley, of Spanish-American war fame and at one time at the head of the State National Guard, was his chief of police, and J. M. Guffy, well known in Democratic political circles of Pennsylvania, was clerk of the council. General Wiley was also prominent in later days in the oil industry.

Toward the close of the Civil war, in the winter of 1864-65, the town of Pithole took on a boom. The sinking of large flowing wells brought it into notice and in the spring of 1865 there was an influx of humanity, among the new arrivals being soldiers released from the four-years struggle, the town growing to the size of about thirty thousand population in six months after the sinking of the wells. People lived in tents and crudely constructed homes. Pithole was the third largest post office in Pennsylvania. In less than a year the United States well, one of the largest,

ceased flowing. Others also failed to produce, and then began an exodus, leaving the city almost desolate by the going away of the people, fires, and other causes incident to failures of boom towns.

Mr. Duncan for a time had been successful. He had paid all of his indebtedness except four thousand dollars of the twelve thousand dollars he owed his benefactor of the firm of Spang, Chalfont & Company. He went to Mr. Chalfont and told him the situation. His old employer was still good to him. He told him not to worry about the indebtedness, but to start somewhere else and have confidence in his youth and ability. Mr. Duncan again started out and located at Pleasantville, and fortune came his way. Within one year he had paid every cent he owed. Wider opportunities offered and new points of production were being found constantly, and the firm of Duncan & Chalfont was established. Branches were placed at Shamburg, Cashup, Red Hot, Shaw Farm, Tight Pinch, Paxton Corners, Oil City, Triumph Hill and other places. Here the firm dealt in oil well supplies. Some of the places passed out of existence and are now but a remembrance to the older generation.

In 1871 Mr. Duncan moved to Oil City and there established the firm of Duncan Brothers & Company, dealers in general hardware and oil well supplies. Soon he was drawn into the ranks of producers, and as time passed acquired large interests in the oil and gas fields of western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, though few men even in this business have experienced a more varied degree of prosperity. His hopes in operations involving large outlay of capital were not always realized, but with the pertinacity characteristic of the race from which he comes he kept ahead, and where disaster came in one form counterbalanced it with success in another, eventually accomplishing his objectives, as he deserved. Upon the whole, Mr. Duncan had a career which he may now contemplate with satisfaction, as he enjoys the fruits of long years of struggle.

Mr. Duncan contributed largely by his operations to the prosperity of Gas City, Ind., by taking in charge a gas plant through which cheap gas was supplied to its numerous manufacturers.

Mr. Duncan had a peculiar adaptability for taking charge of commercial establishments that were drifting out to the seas of failure, taking the wheel and piloting them safely into the harbor of success. Among them was the Enterprise Milling Company, of which he be-

came president; this was another Oil City industry that only needed the guiding hand of a captain of industry. Another was the Avondale Coal Mine, on the Pennsylvania railroad above Pittsburgh, which he developed, and through point of location and facilities it was made almost indispensable to the Pennsylvania railroad as a coal supply. Later Mr. Duncan sold this holding to the officers of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at a large profit.

He assisted in founding the Pure Oil Company of New York City and also had charge of the land interests and a large amount of oil productions owned by H. H. Honore, of Chicago, father-in-law of Gen. Frederick D. Grant, son of General Grant, commander of the Union forces during the Civil war and afterward president of the United States.

In 1886 Mr. Duncan organized the Oil City Tube Works, which establishment was subsequently disposed of to the combination or trust which is now in existence.

The first natural gas company brought into existence, the Oil City gas company known as the Oil City Fuel Supply Company, was promoted and incorporated by Mr. Duncan and a few friends, to supply Oil City with fuel and light, the majority of which stock was purchased by the Standard Oil Company in 1894 and has been one of its most profitable properties. Mr. Duncan retained his stock in the corporation and is still enjoying its prosperity.

About 1894 Mr. Duncan, having disposed of that interest, engaged in refining, buying the plant of the Old Valley Oil Works, which, at the time he took it over, was in financial distress. It was reopened as the Germania Refinery, and after acquiring the Penn Refining Company, the name was changed to the Penn American Refinery, with works at Oil City and Rouseville. He was president of the company for some years, retaining that responsibility until advancing years made it desirable for him to withdraw from active duties, but he continues to serve as a director. The original capital of one hundred thousand dollars was increased to two million dollars and the output now ranges from forty thousand to seventy thousand barrels per month.

Of recent years Mr. Duncan has been gradually disposing of his crude oil interests of a producing character, concentrating rather than expanding his holdings of various kinds. His investments have not been limited to oil properties, but included street railway and mining stocks and participation in enterprises of the public utility class, particularly those designed

to benefit his own city. His faith in Oil City led him to support many local undertakings of that character. No movement for its advancement found him lacking in enthusiasm and liberality. He was one of a small group who promoted the building of the great bridges spanning the Allegheny river there, and when the structures were completed he turned over his stock to the county in order to make them free thoroughfares. These bridges were built by Mr. Duncan and a few of his public-spirited friends to stop the extortionate tolls of certain bridge-holding interests. After erecting one bridge the rate across was placed at a very reasonable sum. This caused the owners of the toll bridge to come down in their price, this movement on the part of Mr. Duncan and his associates eventually resulting in routing the owners of the toll bridge, and the county took over the one that was the savior of the community from extortionate tolls. Later Mr. Duncan aided in the construction of other bridges across the Allegheny river at his home city.

For years Mr. Duncan served as a member of the city school board, and it was during his term of office that the people became enlightened on the absolute necessity of better educational structures. He advocated the building of a high school, but the people were averse to the expense. But Mr. Duncan prevailed upon his associate members of the school board to proceed in the matter, with the result that a high school building was erected. His judgment was justified. Within a year the parents of children saw the vast benefits accruing and clamored for another schoolhouse of the modern type. Their wishes were gratified.

Mr. Duncan was a member of the city council of Oil City and was unanimously elected by that body mayor, to fill the unexpired term of Mayor Foster.

Outdoor sports always appealed to Mr. Duncan, affording his principal recreation from his many business demands. In youth he was a great reader of books for boys on hunting and fishing. In day dreams he could imagine himself making great catches of fish, and upon one occasion he was successful in landing as many of the finny tribe as he once read of in a book. It was a great pleasure to him to go into the deepest wilds with rod and gun. It was a healthy recreation which he advocated. He possessed fine hunters' paraphernalia and dogs, and has hunted in Canada, the Dakotas and California. He has been a frequent contributor to "Forest and Stream" and other

publications devoted to outdoor sports. He assisted in organizing the Gun Club of Oil City and has carried off many honors as a marksman. He was numbered among the champions with the gun and won and retained the Club medal for three years, thereby becoming the permanent owner of the trophy, something rather out of the ordinary, as in the great majority of instances a new champion will arise before the time for absolute ownership of a medal has been reached. The championship for live bird shooting was never won from him. Mr. Duncan has engaged in double bird shoots in New York State and has been a contender with champions of the United States in sparrow shooting matches.

Except for engaging in local political affairs in his home city Mr. Duncan kept aloof from politics, and to this he attributes his success in business life. He did not permit political honors to entice him. He refused the Democratic nomination in convention as a member of Congress, as well as other public positions outside of municipal affairs of his home city.

A lover of good reading, Mr. Duncan has also been a composer of verses of merit, many of which were published in newspapers of the largest cities of the country. He has compiled a book of poems entitled "Along Life's Path," not published from any remunerative motive, merely for his own pleasure. His compositions attracted many readers, and there were demands for the volume to the extent that a second edition was necessary. He is a lover of nature and romance, and put his thoughts into verse.

It was one of the pleasures of Mr. Duncan to interest himself in the welfare of young men making their way in life, and many of them from time to time have greeted him after becoming successful business men, thanking him for his assistance, without which they would not have made their way in the world. The kindness of Mr. Chalfont was ever fresh in the mind of Mr. Duncan, and it was a pleasure to him to aid the struggling young man in his battle for life.

In his own quiet manner Mr. Duncan has been a contributor to charities, the majority of benefactions on his part being known only to himself. His gifts to the church have been liberal.

During the great flood and fire that occurred in Oil City in the early nineties, when the whole flats were inundated by excessive rains and the bursting of large dams on Oil creek, a train of gondola cars, loaded with skelp iron for the tube works, extended four or five hun-

dred feet into the flood. Mr. Duncan, summoning help and utilizing lumber from the adjoining lumber yards, made connection to the second story windows of the houses that could be thus reached, and it is estimated that over one hundred persons, including women and children, were conducted to safety over this train of cars. A twenty-thousand-barrel tank of benzine, having been undermined, emptied its contents on the surface of the water, and the benzine being ignited by a passing locomotive a series of explosions occurred through which sixty odd persons lost their lives. But for the precaution and prompt action upon the part of Mr. Duncan, who directed the affair, the hundred or more rescued would have met the same fate.

Now past threescore and ten years, Mr. Duncan is as active as many men ten years his junior. His mental faculties are strong, his mind so clear that he can review the happenings in his busy life without the slightest difficulty. Names and dates are firmly fixed in his memory, and he does not have to refer to other occurrences to locate the time and place of events. He is a most entertaining conversationalist, with a fund of information and a most agreeable manner. The humorous side of occurrences appeals to him, the ready Irish wit predominating. Fraternally Mr. Duncan is a Knight Templar Mason. He has been a success in every institution he has taken hold of.

At Pittsburgh Mr. Duncan married Rachael Duncan, and they have had the unusual experience of enjoying the golden anniversary of their wedding. Of the children born to them four reached maturity: William R. Duncan, who died in 1905; Stella, who married E. S. Bush, of Chicago, and died in middle life; Garde Chalfont; and Jessie Florence, the last named living at home.

WILLIAM R. DUNCAN was for fifteen years teller of the Oil City Trust Company. He then became secretary of the Pure Oil Company at New York City, which his father had assisted in starting, and about 1903 took the position of secretary of the Citizens' Gas Company at Gas City, Ind. His last years were spent in close association with his father, whom he relieved of much of the detail work of his extensive interests.

GARDE CHALFONT DUNCAN, who was educated in the Oil City schools and Allegheny College, spent some years of his early manhood in the office of the Penn Refining Company at Oil City, and later filled a responsible position with the office force of the Empire

Oil Works there, severing that business relationship at the time of his brother's death to devote himself to matters pertaining to his estate, and he now has practically full charge of his father's large interests also. He is keenly alive to the public welfare, as well as promoting the business activities of his community, though he has not taken any direct part in the administration of local affairs. He is a Scottish Rite Mason, a member of the Knights Templars and Consistory.

Mr. Duncan was married in Oil City to Inez Miller, a native of Dayton, Ohio, daughter of B. H. Miller, late of the National Transit Company. Mrs. Duncan was educated in the Oil City high school. She and her husband attend the Second Presbyterian Church and assist generously in its support. They have no children.

ALEXANDER W. BROWN, of Pleasantville, is now the only survivor of the four brothers, John F., William, Samuel Queen and Alexander W. Brown, composing the once famous firm of Brown Brothers, whose reputation as merchants was of the highest character, and whose operations in the realm of oil production made the name a household word.

No history of Venango county could be complete without the record of the Brown family, whose activities in all the phases of its development have constituted an important contribution to the general progress. In personal character and standing they have been counted among the sterling citizens of the county, nor have they been second to any in material achievement. John Brown, the father of these four brothers, was as esteemed and influential in his generation as his sons became in their day. Born in the North of Ireland in 1789, he was of Scotch origin, his Covenanter ancestors leaving Scotland during the persecutions under King James II. Coming to America about 1817, he lived in New York City until 1833, and in 1827 was engaged in business there. Before leaving Ireland he had anticipated the satisfaction of being a land owner, and it was this that drew him to Pennsylvania. He was one of a little colony of settlers who came to this section at the same time, he and a number of others having commissioned an agent to go out and secure locations for them in northwestern Pennsylvania. But the agent, instead of choosing sites for his clients in one neighborhood, as they desired, had procured widely separated tracts, and that selected for Mr. Brown was in the wilderness several miles north of Titusville. He had come out alone

early in 1833, making the journey by way of Harrisburg, and leaving Mrs. Brown to follow with the family and household goods, as well as the stock of merchandise with which to start a store, by the more leisurely way of the Erie canal, so that he could have time to prepare a home. He was so disappointed in his land that he proceeded on to Pleasantville, an attractive small village in Venango county, and secured a location there. When the family joined him the outlook was so discouraging that they decided to return to New York as soon as possible, and part of the household goods were not unpacked. But the stock of merchandise had to be disposed of before the return journey could be undertaken, and as it had to be sold on credit owing to the conditions then prevailing a stay of some months was necessary. By the end of that period they had become so attached to the place and to their new neighbors that they had no desire to leave. Mr. Brown was thus the first merchant at Pleasantville. His first residence here was a log house on State street, at the crossing of the run, and his store was at the same location. As a business man he was remarkably successful, applying himself closely to the maintenance of his trade, his little store and stock forming the nucleus of the large business later done by his sons under the name of Brown Brothers, carried on as such until 1872. John Brown obtained considerable new land in and around Pleasantville, and in his lifetime much of it was converted into valuable farming tracts. Meanwhile he enlarged his store as the increasing needs of his patronage demanded, and added to his stock, which became quite comprehensive, including dry goods, groceries, drugs, farm implements, and other goods carried by country merchants. He erected the first brick store in the village, and it was the only business house left standing after the great fire of 1871. Mr. Brown was a leading spirit in local affairs, and served as burgess of Pleasantville in 1857, though he did as much for the town in his capacity as a private citizen. He died there July 31, 1861, at the age of seventy-two years. He always attributed much of his success in life to his wife, Mary Ann (Queen), whom he married in New York about 1820. She was born in 1795 in the North of Ireland, came to America in infancy, was a model wife and mother, truly noble and good, and lived to the ripe old age of eighty years, dying Oct. 16, 1875, at Pleasantville. Her mother, who passed her last

days with Mr. and Mrs. Brown, died at the age of ninety-one years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown were Covenanters, and she always retained a loyal affection for the church of her youth, although she united with the Presbyterian denomination when it absorbed the Covenanter Church at Pleasantville. Mr. Brown was always one of the foremost workers in that church, which he virtually founded and in whose interest he always labored zealously. There were kindred spirits of the same origin and faith among those who accompanied him to this region, James Geary, Andrew McCandless and Daniel Wilson securing homes near Pleasantville at and near Neilltown, at about the same time, and all became important citizens and members of the Covenanter Church. Mr. Brown secured contributions for the construction of a house of worship, which these early members sustained during their lives. As already indicated, it has since become the Presbyterian Church at Pleasantville. Mr. Brown was a practical Christian, not only generous to his church but also in helping those in need, though he was very modest regarding his charities, considering such opportunities more of a privilege than an obligation. He had strong family ties, took great interest in the education and progress of his children, and was much gratified at being able to leave a good property to them. His family consisted of the four sons mentioned and one daughter, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Dr. John Wilson and whose son is Samuel Q. Wilson of Pleasantville, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Two of the sons, John F. and William, continued to reside with the mother at the old home, neither marrying. Their personal business life was given to the management of the store. John F. Brown, born July 9, 1824, in New York City, was a man of quiet, unobtrusive disposition, ever keen in observing the needs of others, many being the acts of gracious assistance to those in want of which no one knew at the time but the recipient. He was fond of nature and had great consideration for birds and other animals, caring for them solicitously. He died Dec. 11, 1909. William Brown, born April 14, 1829, died May 7, 1896. He was much similar in personality to his elder brother, with a pleasant greeting for all, and was an excellent type of the earnest Christian gentleman. Samuel Q. Brown helped to establish the first bank at Pleasantville as a member of the firm of Mitchell & Brown, and later be-

came president of the Pleasantville Bank, organized in December, 1872. His career broadened out, touching many things that had a decided bearing not only upon local affairs, but upon the commercial and industrial life of the nation. Separate mention is accorded him on another page.

Alexander W. Brown was born at Pleasantville, Sept. 4, 1837, and here his entire life of more than eighty years has been lived. No man living has seen more than he of the entire workings of the development of the oil industry, with which almost from its inception he has been closely and actively affiliated. Drawn into the midst of the whirlpool of production and speculation, and knowing personally every man of note who ever became largely interested in the oil fields, he was never strongly influenced by the frenzy of others, but with sound Scotch judgment, possibly emphasized by his father's caution to conservativeness, he kept a clear head and conscience, not permitting himself to be carried off his balance by any of its fluctuations. Today, with fourscore years behind him, he is apparently as keen of intellect and as sprightly of step as ever. No other excitement in the world's history carried men's minds to more exalted anticipation than the discovery of oil, and certainly none shows lower depths of despondency and despair than was repeated time and again on Oil Creek and its environs. Mr. Brown became associated with the Buchanan Oil Company, owned by Rouse, Mitchell & Brown, being present when the lease was secured from Mr. Buchanan, who had refused to lease to anyone until he learned that the Brown brothers were the sons of John Brown, of Pleasantville. Then he said: "Yes, I will lease to you; I was too poor to pay my way to America and your father sent me the passage money. There is nothing I'll refuse to a son of John Brown." One of Mr. Brown's early wells paid handsomely. A man called to buy a new well at Cash Up that he—Brown—had recently brought in, and demanded the price. Oil was selling at five dollars a barrel, and the well was yielding freely. Mr. Brown fixed the price at forty thousand dollars, cash in hand. Dr. Shamburg asked him to go to Titusville and close the deal, the money being fully counted out. The Doctor then asked for a suitable name for the well. Mr. Brown responded, call it "Cash Up," which was done, and the name has adhered to the community ever since. When Samuel Q. Brown opened his brokerage office in New York City in 1868 Alexander W. Brown secured options on lands

which were readily sold in the Eastern market. When his brother reached out into the larger enterprises he would at times take a financial interest in them, but generally preferred that his transactions should be confined to the field where he could personally supervise them. Like his father and brothers Mr. Brown has been public-spirited in town affairs, doing much to beautify, improve and build up the place and make it a desirable home community. He served as postmaster during the Civil war period, and as councilman in 1876 and 1879.

Mr. Brown was married July 11, 1865, to Minerva M. Mitchell, daughter of Thomas and Eliza (Lamb) Mitchell and sister of John and David Mitchell. At the same ceremony his brother Samuel Q. Brown was married, the brides being cousins. Of the four children born to this union the eldest, Roland, died at the age of twenty years. Dr. Alex. McLeod Brown is a practicing physician at Franklin, this county. Donald W., of the Tidewater Oil Company, is established at Robinson, Ill. Jane M. is the wife of Frank Haskell, of Tulsa, Okla. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have occupied their present home at Pleasantville for nearly fifty-three years, having begun housekeeping there. It was bought and equipped from the sale of the "Cash Up" well, and in roominess and general attractions compares well with the most desirable dwellings in that part of the county, having been well kept up from the beginning. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Brown has ever cared to exchange their pleasant rural surroundings for the excitements of metropolitan life, preferring to spend the evening of their days amid the familiar scenes and friends of many years.

DAVID T. BORLAND has during his residence of a half century and more at Oil City been identified with interests which in their variety of nature and purpose indicate unusual versatility of mind and breadth of thought. As a forceful figure in business and financial circles, a public official of proved integrity and honorable purpose, the practical friend of many civic enterprises which have benefited the community appreciably, his activities have promoted the general welfare in many ways. His success in the management of his business affairs has been sufficient to rank him with the foremost men of the city, where he has been established since the fall of 1864.

Mr. Borland was born April 4, 1839, in Allegheny county, Pa., where the family is one of old standing, his grandfather, James Borland, having farmed there until his death.

Thomas Borland, father of David T. Borland, was engaged in the lumber business and rafting in Allegheny county, where he lived and died. He married Elizabeth Barr. David T. Borland spent his early life at Tarentum, Allegheny county, received a common school education, and lived at home until twenty-two years old. Part of this time he was engaged in agricultural work, but when a boy of fourteen years he found employment at the salt wells, assisting with the drilling and other operations, following this for four years in all. He was so occupied at the time of his enlistment in the Union army, which he joined in June, 1862, becoming a corporal in Company F, 123d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, which was attached to the Army of the Potomac. During the nine months of his service he took part in the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg, being wounded in the latter engagement, Dec. 13, 1862, by a gunshot in the thigh, which incapacitated him. Upon receiving his discharge he went out to Kansas, where he drilled the first salt well put down in that section in June, 1864. However, he did not remain there owing to the unsettled condition of the country, returning to Allegheny county, and in the fall of 1864 he came to Oil City, where he took the position of superintendent with the Eldorado Oil Company. After two years in this connection he engaged in the production of oil, to which he devoted his attention exclusively for several years following, his operations being at different locations in Venango county, but mostly near Oil City. In 1874 he embarked in the lumber and coal trade, in which line he continued profitably until 1887, doing business under the name of the Oil City Lumber & Coal Company. Upon his retirement therefrom his sons William and Walter took his interests, and they are still engaged in the business; for the last fifteen years the firm style has been the Borland Lumber Company.

When he withdrew from the lumber business Mr. Borland resumed extensive operations as an oil producer and is still so engaged, having valuable holdings in the vicinity of Oil City. But he has also gone into other fields, as the associations which he maintains show. He is vice president of the Oil City Trust Company, to which office he was elected four years ago after a number of years' service on the board of directors, and as this is the most heavily capitalized financial institution in Oil City his authoritative position in its management gives assurance of executive and business qualities beyond the ordinary. From

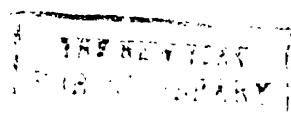
1892 to 1902 Mr. Borland was a director of the Citizens' Traction Company of Oil City.

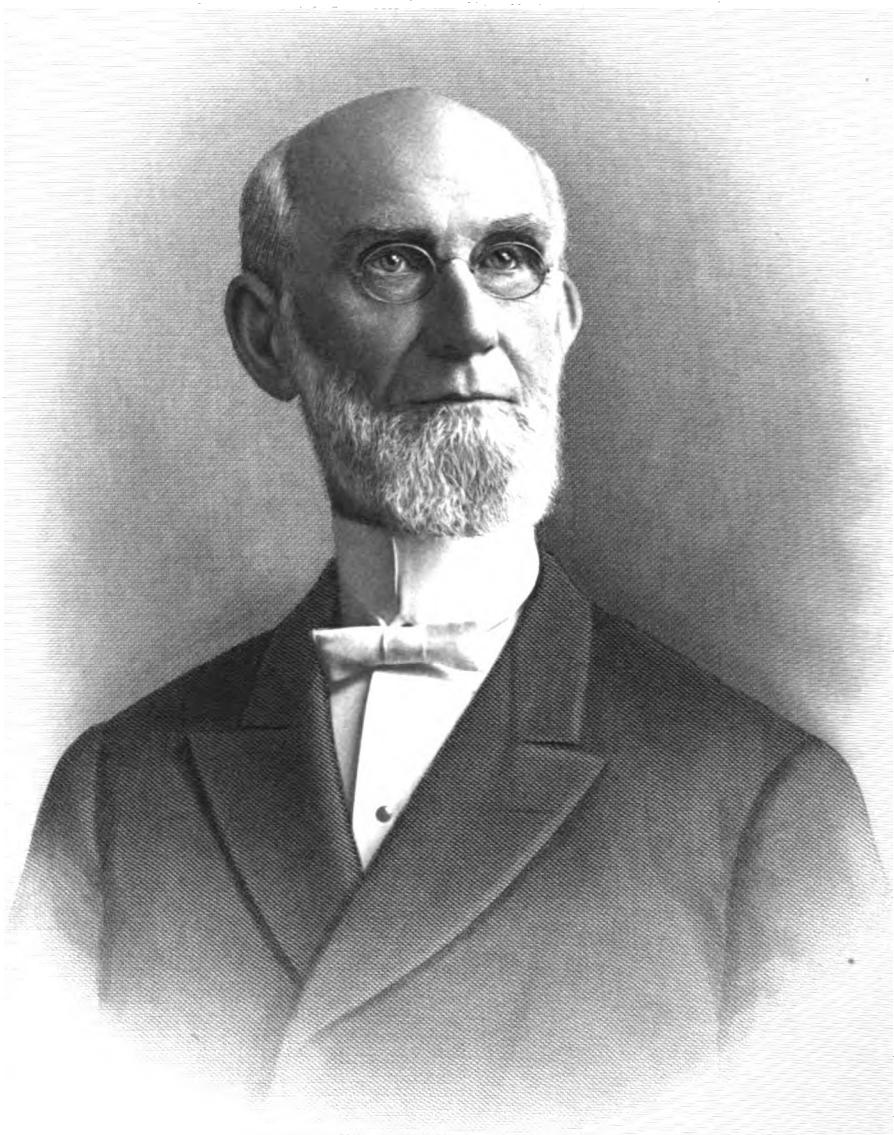
With his home in the borough of Siverly, which has since become part of Oil City, of which it constitutes the Tenth ward, Mr. Borland gave his time and efforts loyally to promote good government and conserve the best interests of the people, and as member of the school board and council on many occasions displayed his unselfish desire to place the affairs of the municipality upon an efficient basis, showing a knowledge of the needs of the community and the most effective means of supplying them which evidenced intense thought and study of the situation. In the line of public improvement also has been his connection with the Oak Grove Cemetery Association, of which he has been a director and one of its most reliable workers. He is a leading member of Trinity M. E. Church of Oil City, to which his family also belongs, and is now filling the presidency of the board of trustees. As a veteran of the Civil war Mr. Borland is affiliated with the Grand Army of the Republic. He has also belonged to the Sons of Temperance.

When twenty-two years old Mr. Borland married Mary A. Kennedy, of Westmoreland county, Pa., and they have had a family of five children, three now surviving, namely: Bertha, Mrs. C. W. Downing, deceased; William K.; Emma, deceased; Walter S.; and Anna, wife of Dr. A. L. Coyle, of Wheeling, West Virginia.

BRYAN HILL OSBORNE, of Franklin, is a lawyer and business man of versatile talents, well exemplified in the success which has accompanied his various undertakings, of whatever character. In more than thirty-five years of practice at the Venango county bar he has won distinction in the legal profession, and at the same time has carried extensive and important responsibilities in the field of business, has devoted considerable thought to vital public questions, and has spent much time in the service of his fellow citizens, attempting to realize some of his cherished ideals in that line. With a mind alert to perceive the best possibilities of whatever interests him, and the requisite mental and physical energy to follow his conclusions with action, he has accomplished much of value to the community besides handling his own affairs capably.

Mr. Osborne is the first of his family to make a permanent home in Pennsylvania, though his father, Dr. David Cuvier Osborne,





David G. Osborne

is very well remembered in this section, where he was established for several years in the course of a long and fruitful ministry in the Methodist Church. The Osbornes are of old New England stock, there having been several families of the name in New Haven, Conn., among the early settlers.

(I) Thomas Osborne, from Mardstone, England, the pioneer ancestor of the branch of the family in which we are interested, removed in 1650 to Easthampton, L. I., and was a land owner there. In 1687 he conveyed all his remaining lands to his son Benjamin and returned to his old home at New Haven, where he died. By occupation he was a tanner. His children were: Benjamin, Thomas (mentioned below), John and Jeremiah.

Richard Osborne, brother of Thomas, came from England to Hingham, Mass., thence to New Haven; he served in the Pequot war. He was a tanner by trade. Afterward he lived at Fairfield, Conn., and Newtown, L. I. The children of Richard Osborne were: John, Elizabeth, Priscilla and David.

John Osborne, another early settler of New Haven, removed to Fairfield with his father Richard; he married Sarah Bennett and had children: Samuel, John, David, Joseph and Elizabeth.

Jeremiah Osborne, perhaps a brother of Richard, settled in New Haven; was a tanner; served as deputy to the General Court, 1672-74. By his wife Mary he had children: Rebecca, Increase, Benjamin, Jeremiah, Mary, Elizabeth, Jeremiah (2), Joanna, Thomas and Elizabeth (2). Similarity among the names of the children of Richard, Jeremiah and Thomas would indicate that they were brothers.

(II) Thomas Osborne (2), son of Thomas above, was born in England in 1622 and came to this country with the family. He removed from New Haven, Conn., to Easthampton, L. I., with his father, and died at Easthampton in 1712, aged ninety years. Among his children was Daniel.

(III) Daniel Osborne, son of Thomas (2), born in 1666 at Easthampton, L. I., died there Jan. 6, 1713. His branch of the family located in the lower part of Main street, Easthampton, and from that fact came to be known in later years as the "Down Street Osbornes." The old homestead of Daniel Osborne was owned in recent years by Daniel E. Osborne. Daniel Osborne married Elizabeth Hedges, daughter or granddaughter of William Hedges, immigrant ancestor of the Hedges family of New York. Children:

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Daniel, Thomas, Abigail, Rebecca and Mary. These were born at Easthampton.

(IV) Daniel Osborne (2), born about 1690 at Easthampton, died there May 18, 1757. On June 10, 1713, he married Elizabeth Austin. Children: Elizabeth, Daniel, Rebecca, Jonathan, Hannah and David.

(V) David Osborne, son of Daniel (2), born May 11, 1720, at Easthampton, L. I., died Dec. 4, 1792. To his marriage with Mary Hunting were born five children, the sons being Daniel and David.

(VI) David Osborne (2), born in Easthampton, Aug. 22, 1761, died Feb. 16, 1813, at Kingsbury, Washington Co., N. Y. On Nov. 20, 1788, he was married at Amenia, Dutchess Co., N. Y., to Lucretia Harris, who was born at Cornwall, Litchfield Co., Conn., July 30, 1768, and died at Kingsbury, Jan. 30, 1811. Children: Cornelia, born Oct. 2, 1789, died Dec. 23, 1821. Maria, born April 5, 1791, died the same day. John Hunting, born in November, 1792, died Aug. 13, 1794. Sophronia Lucretia, born April 5, 1795, died Aug. 3, 1830. Platt Smith is mentioned below. Harriet Munro, born April 13, 1800, died June 5, 1829. Harris Burnett, born Jan. 12, 1803, died in 1889. Morris Dickson, born Dec. 29, 1805, died July 26, 1808. Cynthia Ann, born Oct. 29, 1807, died Feb. 4, 1864.

(VII) Platt Smith Osborne, born March 26, 1798, died at Sherman, N. Y., April 20, 1887. He married Mary A. Platt, daughter of Nehemiah and Anna Platt, and they had children as follows, born at Ripley, N. Y.: Sophia Lucretia, born June 14, 1829, married Dr. Graves. David Cuvier is mentioned below. Platt Smith, Jr., was born April 27, 1834. Harriet, born Jan. 20, 1836, married Samuel P. McCalmont. Cynthia Ann, born April 3, 1838, married Dr. Samuel McNair. Isadore was born Dec. 12, 1839. Harris Burnett was born Aug. 11, 1841. James Whitehill was born Feb. 10, 1843. Mary Ann, born July 15, 1845, married Stephen Benedict.

(VIII) REV. DAVID CUVIER OSBORNE was born Aug. 3, 1830, and was reared under primitive conditions, his father having taken up a farm from the government in 1820 in an undeveloped section of New York State. The father was a tanner, following the calling of many of his ancestors. The boy was given the best possible education under the circumstances, attending the local public schools and Westfield Academy, and made such good progress that at sixteen he was engaged to teach the village school at Sherman, where the family then resided. All the Osbornes were fond

of music and talented in that line, and David was especially gifted. He cultivated his musical skill, spending two years in New York City studying with the best instructors of the time and later teaching music, both vocal and instrumental. For two and a half years he studied law in Panama, N. Y., in the office of Hon. Abner Lewis. But the course he had laid out for himself was changed on New Year's Eve, 1850, when he formally embraced Christianity while attending evangelistic services, and not long afterward he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He had already shown such promise as a public speaker that his friends saw a useful career for him in the ministry, which he soon decided to adopt, and in 1853 he was admitted to the Erie Conference to preach the gospel. The early predictions of his admirers were more than fulfilled. He became one of the leading ministers of the Methodist denomination, setting a standard of earnest and effective work in every pastorate and leaving substantial evidences of the vigorous spirit which animated him in every enterprise. His love for music led him to give it an important place in the church services, and he himself would organize and drill church choirs and labor zealously to provide musical facilities, pipe organs having been installed in many of the churches which he served through his influence. The young were always the special objects of his care and attention. It was not only his idea to make the church and its activities attractive to them, but he planned to make them take the serious responsibilities of maintaining the church organization, and met with great success in this field, no doubt attributable to the never fading youthfulness of his own spirit. He believed that the church should lead in social regeneration, and the famous "Akron Plan," originally used in the First Church, Akron, Ohio, he worked out while pastor of that church in collaboration with Louis Miller, superintendent of the Sunday school and financier of the enterprise, and Jacob Snyder, the architect. They usually met in Dr. Osborne's study to discuss their ideas, which had such wonderful fruit. These progressive souls were anxious to provide a building especially adapted to the needs of Sunday school and church social activities, and it proved so successful at Akron that it was adopted by other congregations with similar problems all over the country. Dr. Osborne was also called upon to help plan the Chautauqua movement, Dr. John H. Vincent asking counsel of him in arranging for and conducting the Chautauqua assemblies. While

on the Barnesville district (1893-98) he was superintendent and instructor in the Epworth League Assembly of Bethesda, Ohio, and those who appeared on the program of that assembly in those years were guests at his cottage. A number of ambitious church building enterprises were carried to completion by his energy, his pastorates in every church having been periods of memorable activity. Yet with all the success he had in a material way, he never sacrificed the spiritual to that end—it was rather that he raised the spiritual to a vigor and intensity which made many things possible. His eloquence was appealing, and a number of laymen who proved highly useful to the denomination were brought in under his preaching, notably the late President William McKinley. His pastorates were as follows: Randolph, 1853; Wattsburg, 1854; Dunkirk, 1855-56; Warren, 1857; Franklin, 1858-59; New Castle, 1860-61; Erie, First Church, 1862-64; Akron, 1865-67; Erie Street Church, Cleveland, 1868-70; Titusville, 1871-72; Cleveland district as superintendent, 1873-76; Steubenville Kramer Church, 1877-78; Massillon, 1879-80; First Church, Canton, 1881-83; First Church, Youngstown, 1884-86; Painesville, 1887-89; Conneaut, 1890-92; Barnesville district as superintendent, 1893-98; Niles, 1899-1900; Madison, 1901; superannuated, 1902; moved to Kalamazoo, Mich., where he died Oct. 26, 1912. While there he supplied a pulpit at Comstock, Mich., 1904-07.

On October 23, 1856, Dr. Osborne married Arvilla Maria Hill, eldest daughter of Rev. Bryan S. and Mary E. (Sanborn) Hill and they had children as follows: Bryan Hill is mentioned below: David Winthrope, born at New Castle, Pa., March 16, 1861, died at Kalamazoo, Mich., Nov. 14, 1917; Cyrus Clarke, born at Akron, Ohio, Oct. 19, 1865, married Oct. 12, 1893, to Myra Fay Mackey, of Franklin, Pa., is now residing at Havana, Cuba; Mary, born at Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 21, 1869, died at Kalamazoo, Mich., Nov. 10, 1904; Donald Platt, born at Steubenville, Ohio, Oct. 28, 1878, married May 15, 1918, to Mrs. Mabel H. Boudeman, is now residing at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mrs. Arvilla Maria (Hill) Osborne, born Dec. 29, 1837, at Sheridan, N. Y., daughter of Rev. Bryan S. and Mary E. (Sanborn) Hill, died Oct. 18, 1913, at Kalamazoo, Mich., was the eldest of their family, the others being: (2) Robert Allen, born March 23, 1839, died April 29, 1858. (3) Mary E., born Oct. 3, 1840, died April 23, 1859. (4) Adeline, born Aug. 20, 1842, married Nov. 17, 1864.





Bryan H. Osborne

George M. Permer, who died in the spring of 1918. (5) Julia, born Dec. 20, 1844, married Oct. 26, 1865, Daniel B. Foote. (6) Emily, born Jan. 17, 1847, married Sept. 3, 1870, Dr. S. F. Chapin. (7) Stella was born June 8, 1849. (8) Eva Marila, born Feb. 12, 1852, married June 28, 1881, John C. Compton. (9) Moses Simpson, born Feb. 18, 1854, died Oct. 1, 1857. (10) John Sanborn, born July 26, 1856, died July 16, 1886, married Nov. 9, 1881, Minnie H. Fritts. (11) Johanna Stewart, born July 26, 1856, died April 28, 1899, married June 28, 1882, Joseph R. Allen, and (second) in January, 1892, George Sammons.

(IX) Bryan Hill Osborne, born at Franklin, Pa., Aug. 10, 1858, began his education in the public schools there and attended high school at Cleveland, Ohio, where he fitted for college. He studied at Ohio Wesleyan University as a member of the class of 1880, but did not take the full course. He began the study of law in the office of McCalmont & Osborne at Franklin, and was admitted to the bar in 1881, entering upon active practice immediately. His law office has since been maintained at Franklin, and he has attained high distinction in his profession, at the same time filling various offices of trust with which he has been honored, in connection with the administration of the city government. For several terms he was a member of the council, was mayor in 1896, and in 1903, 1905 and 1906 represented his district in the State Legislature, running on the Republican ticket; in 1916 was one of the presidential electors who supported Hon. Charles E. Hughes. Mr. Osborne's business connections include association with the First National Bank of Franklin, of which he is a director; Sibley Soap Company; S. T. Karns' Sons Company and West End Water Company—director of all these and secretary of the Water Company; and he is financially interested in various other enterprises in the vicinity. He has co-operated in the promotion of many projects appealing to men of public spirit in Franklin; is president of the board of trustees of the Franklin Hospital; and a trustee of the State Hospital for the Insane at Warren, Pa. His religious connection is with St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church at Franklin, which he has served as vestryman for some years.

On Dec. 11, 1889, Mr. Osborne married Stella V. Mitchell, daughter of Forster W. and Laura M. (Wilson) Mitchell, of Franklin, Pa. They have but one child, Geraldine, born at Franklin, who was married June 16,

1917, to Frederick Studebaker Fish, of South Bend, Indiana.

JOHN HOWARD SMILEY, of Franklin, bears a name which has there been synonymous with integrity and strength of character, and eminent intellectual ability, during a century of praiseworthy citizenship and association with the history of city and county. His father, the late Edwin Wilson Smiley, long prominent as editor and political leader, and for thirty years prior to his death an honored worker in the public service of the State, was one of the representative men of his generation in Pennsylvania.

As far back as the records go, the Smileys seem to have been noteworthy for their substantial traits and general capabilities. William Smiley, the first of this line of whom we have definite information, came to America from Scotland about the middle of the eighteenth century and settled near Philadelphia, Pa. He was a descendant of John Smylie, barrister, who lived in Dublin, Ireland, in the seventeenth century, and the coat of arms confirmed by the Crown through Sir William Betham, knight deputy of Ulster, King of Arms in 1815, and duly recorded, was conferred upon his ancestors. William Smiley's children were: John, Thomas and James, Thomas being the next in the line here under consideration. John Smiley settled at Carlisle, Pa., and founded the Cumberland county branch of the family, many of his posterity still living in that and Perry counties. James was the ancestor of another branch of the family settled in this section of Pennsylvania.

Thomas Smiley, son of William, above, was born near Philadelphia, and died about 1824 in Venango county, where he settled subsequent to his service in the war of 1812. On coming to this locality he first lived along French creek, about one and a half miles below Utica, later disposing of his interests there and removing to Franklin. He was well known in his day as "Uncle Tom." His wife, Mary (Duffield), daughter of William and Elizabeth (Hassan) Duffield, died in 1830. They had children as follows: Armstrong, born May 27, 1810, married June 13, 1832, Dorothy Alt, and died April 11, 1883. William, born Sept. 12, 1811, married Jane Kinney, and died Dec. 29, 1870. John Hassan was the grandfather of John Howard Smiley. James married Elezan Whitacre in 1838, and died July 28, 1844. Philip Duffield, born Aug. 28, 1822, married Mary Scott in 1845, and died

Nov. 28, 1898. Charlotte was married Nov. 3, 1836, to James Gordon, and died Sept. 12, 1848.

JOHN HASSAN SMILEY was born Aug. 20, 1820, at Franklin, Pa., where he was reared and educated, having such literary training as the public schools then afforded. In his early life he learned the tailor's trade, but later he was in the coal business for a number of years. He took a live interest in public affairs, joined the Republican party, and was elected associate judge of the Venango county courts, assuming the duties of that office in 1856. In religion he was a Methodist and a prominent member of the church at Franklin, which he served many years as trustee. On Jan. 19, 1837, Mr. Smiley married Nancy McCalmont. His death occurred at Franklin Jan. 8, 1882. They were the parents of children as follows: Mary, born April 10, 1838, married Noah S. Ridgway and had children, Catherine, Frances, Joseph, and Olivia Elizabeth. Emma, born April 5, 1839, married N. K. West, and died in January, 1898, the mother of three children, Clarence, Harry and Margaret. Alexander, born June 17, 1841, died in July, 1842. Joseph McClelland, born March 19, 1843, married Adaline McFate, and died Nov. 24, 1894; his children were Ina, Robert, Effa, Thomas, George, Ruth and Katharine. Edwin Wilson was next in the family. Horatio Stearns, born Dec. 14, 1847, died May 18, 1904; he married Linda McElhenny, and their children were Arthur Wayne and Emma Stella. Frank Dale, born Jan. 21, 1851, married Aug. 12, 1879, Elizabeth Robinson, and had two children, Edwin Wilson and James Lee. Charlotte Gordon was born April 8, 1854. Essington Kephart, born July 25, 1856, married Emma F. Neely, and has one child, James Gordon. Alfred McCalmont, born May 14, 1860, married Mary Wenzel, and they have one son, John W.

Edwin Wilson Smiley was born Sept. 12, 1845, in Franklin. There he attended the public schools and Franklin Academy, graduating from the latter institution when fourteen years old, and shortly afterward, in the fall of 1859, beginning an apprenticeship in the printing office of the *American Citizen*. In time he became a regular compositor, but desiring to make a change on account of his health he gave up this work in 1865 and became a student in the Eastman business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., to prepare himself for a change of occupation. Upon his graduation from that institution he returned to Franklin and took a position with the engineer corps engaged on the construction of the Jamestown & Franklin

railroad, remaining in that work until the road was completed. Then for a short time he was in the coal business with George W. Brigham, but in the fall of 1867 he went back to the *American Citizen*, to which, with one brief exception, he devoted much of his time and thought for many years thereafter. On April 1, 1869, he was solicited by the owners of the *Tionesta Republican*, a Forest county paper, to publish and edit that paper, which he carried on successfully the year following, returning to Franklin in 1870 and purchasing the *Citizen*, which was from that time issued by him and his son, in turn, until the plant was destroyed by fire in 1901. H. S. and F. D. Smiley were associated with him in its publication for several years, until its consolidation with the *Independent Press* in 1884, when F. D. Smiley retired. From this time the paper was known as the *Citizen-Press*, and under Mr. Smiley's gifted management became the acknowledged organ of the Republican party in Venango county, being so distinguished for many years. He was recognized as one of the best informed men in the party in his part of Pennsylvania, his knowledge being sufficiently comprehensive to give his opinions the weight of authority, and his vision and clear judgment were such that his conclusions were to be relied upon for accuracy, a fact which made him valuable in counsel. He was frequently a delegate to State conventions, serving in 1872 when General Hartranft was nominated for governor, and again in 1873, 1874, 1876 and 1879. Meantime, in 1875, he became chairman of the Republican county committee, was chosen again in 1876, and served later several times, 1881, 1885-87 and 1889. In 1876 he was elected reading clerk of the Pennsylvania Senate, and filled that position until 1881, in which year he was defeated because of divisions in the party over the election of a United States senator to succeed Mr. Buckalew. In 1883 he was elected journal clerk of the Senate, the following year chief clerk, and was retained in that incumbency for the rest of his life, a continuous service of over thirty years. In 1888 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress in the Twentieth district and carried Venango county by a large majority, but lost in the district. He died in September, 1904, and on Feb. 7, 1905, the State Senate sat in memorial session in his honor, paying well deserved tribute to the superiority of the services he had so long rendered that body. His long experience of legislative business and parliamentary procedure, supplementing a comprehensive general knowledge of men and af-

fairs, made it possible for him to handle his work with rare intelligence, and gave it a greatly increased value and dignified relation to the proceedings of the Senate which commanded the attention of all who took a conscientious interest in their public duties. Nor could any fail to appreciate the impartiality and courtesy with which he performed his task, the friendships which he formed among representatives of all parties showing personal qualities which gained him the affectionate esteem of all who had relations with him.

In May, 1866, Mr. Smiley was married to Mary Jane Kilgore, daughter of James and Nancy Kilgore, of Mineral township, this county, Rev. John Baine performing the ceremony. They had three children, born as follows: John Howard, Dec. 24, 1867; Ralph Allen, Dec. 7, 1873 (died April 26, 1900); and Jessie, Nov. 13, 1877.

John Howard Smiley is a native of Franklin and was reared there, obtaining his early education in the public schools of the city. When he completed the high school course he entered Pennsylvania State College, and returning to Franklin became associated with his father in the publication of the *Venango Citizen-Press*, as assistant editor. Under the close instruction of his father he was well trained in the editorial and executive duties of newspaper management, and when his father retired, five years later, in 1895, he became owner and editor, continuing to publish the paper until the destruction of the plant by fire, in 1901. He has since been successfully following the brokerage business, being a member of the Pittsburgh Stock Exchange, with offices in the Printz block, at Franklin. He is a director of the Exchange Bank, and in general maintains the family reputation for mental vigor and cleverness in business, combined with the energy to see through any enterprise in which he becomes interested. On matters affecting the general welfare he has been thoroughly public-spirited, standing by the best interests of the community in all movements. He was one of the first councilmen chosen under the commission form of government, holding the position for two years with his customary fidelity to any obligation assumed.

On Feb. 18, 1903, Mr. Smiley was married to Mabel Louise Bowe, daughter of Charles A. and Martha (McGay) Bowe, of Columbus, Ohio, and they have had four children: Louise Bowe (born Dec. 22, 1904), Charles Bowe (born May 6, 1909), John H. (born Feb. 17, 1912) and Edwin W. (born July 14, 1916). The family have a beautiful home at Franklin,

and an attractive place in Maine, where they spend their summers. Socially Mr. Smiley is connected with the Franklin Club, the Wanango Country Club, the local lodge of B. P. O. Elks, and is a member of all the local Masonic bodies.

GEORGE WHITTEN MAGEE, M. D., late of Oil City, passed away in his prime after a quarter of a century of successful medical practice, all in Venango county. Medicine was his chosen field of usefulness, and the reputation he attained in that profession alone bears witness to a lifetime of well spent endeavors. He showed the broadest interpretation of its duties, and unselfish standards regarding his personal responsibilities, with a willingness to live up to his principles which greatly increased his labors. Yet even then they did not fill the whole measure of his desire for service to his fellows, which he manifested by taking a definite part in securing wise administration of public and private institutions operated in the interest of the general welfare. His sympathies were broad and practical, and he never spared himself in demonstrating the sincerity of his views, his honest zeal making him a valued friend of any cause he espoused. Though he died just toward the completion of his fiftieth year he left a record of accomplishment which permits no doubt of the quality of his ambitions or his ability to realize them.

Dr. Magee was born July 27, 1864, in Plain-grove, Lawrence Co., Pa., son of James E. Magee, and a descendant in the fifth generation from his first ancestor in America, who settled in Pennsylvania about the time of the Revolution. Though of Scotch origin the family had been established for some time previously in Ireland, whither they removed in the wave of emigration that took place in the latter part of the seventeenth century, carrying large numbers of Scotch Covenanters to northern Ireland to escape religious persecution. Between 1720 and 1800 they and their descendants sought the freedom which America offered, and among these was Dr. Magee's ancestor, Col. W. A. Magee, an officer of the English army who settled in Philadelphia supposedly about 1750-60. The family had been in Ireland for several generations, being found about the middle of the eighteenth century at Rathmullen, in the most northern section of County Donegal, just southwest of Scotland, whence their forbears had emigrated less than a century before. One branch of the family was founded in Philadelphia by Michael Magee, who settled there in 1795, and who was

a native of Rathmullen, where in 1785 he married Frances McAdoo.

William Magee, son of Col. W. A. Magee, settled in the Black Log valley in Huntingdon county, Pa. His family consisted of six sons and four daughters, the eldest son and the daughters remaining at the old homestead; of the other five sons, one settled in West Virginia and the rest in Pennsylvania, in Allegheny, Mercer, Butler (at Harrisville) and Lawrence counties, respectively.

George Magee, one of the six sons of William Magee, was born and reared on the old homestead in Huntingdon county, Pa., and settled in Slippery Rock township, Beaver (now Lawrence) county, where he acquired land and followed farming until his death in May, 1854. His wife, Nancy (Appleby), died before him, in 1851. They had the following children: Mary, Jane, Margery, John, Nicebey and Catherine.

John Magee, son of George and Nancy (Appleby) Magee, was born Dec. 17, 1804, was reared in Lawrence county, and spent his life there engaged in agriculture and stock raising, dying Nov. 23, 1884. On March 1, 1831, he married Jane Munnell, who was born Feb. 9, 1813, and died July 31, 1905. We have the following record of their nine children: Rosanna, born Dec. 30, 1831, married Robert McCammon, and resides at Plaingrove, Pa.; James E. was the father of Dr. George W. Magee; Agnes, born June 18, 1836, married Robert Van Horn, and died April 23, 1876; George, born July 11, 1840, was killed at the battle of Bull Run, Sept. 5, 1862; John A., born April 22, 1843, a resident of Plaingrove, is a justice of the peace and registrar of vital statistics; Martha J., born Aug. 17, 1845, married John Book, of Plaingrove, and both are deceased, her death occurring Sept. 9, 1882; Margaret E. married J. W. Boak, and died May 27, 1877; Mary E., born March 20, 1854, married Joseph Seth, and lives at North Liberty, Pa.; Sarah C., born Oct. 17, 1859, died Aug. 18, 1894, unmarried.

James E. Magee, father of Dr. George W. Magee, was born May 22, 1834, and died April 26, 1893. He made his home at Plaingrove, where he followed farming and served as tax collector, to which office he was elected on the Republican ticket, which he always supported faithfully. In religious connection he was a Presbyterian. On Nov. 20, 1855, he married Mary Ann Hanna, who was born March 5, 1835, daughter of William Hanna and like him a native of County Donegal, Ireland. She died Dec. 29, 1905. Ten children were born to

Mr. and Mrs. Magee, as follows: Francis W., born May 3, 1857, married Charlotta Cooper and had a daughter Mary, wife of Paul D. Clutton; Zeldas, born May 31, 1859, married Isaac J. Pizor and had children, Francis W., James C., Ira, Lottie and Mary; Kathryn J., born Jan. 13, 1862, married Joseph S. Long and had a son Harry; George Whitten was next in the family; James E., born July 2, 1868, married Millie Sproul, and died in 1904 (his children were Frank and Mabel); Martha M. was next in the family; John W. was born Sept. 24, 1871; Mary Olive, born March 29, 1873, married Dr. Homer G. Duncan and had a son Paul M.; Martha Myrtle, born July 13, 1877, wife of Samuel W. Bragdon, is living in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Dessie Bird, born May 17, 1881, died in May, 1911.

George Whitten Magee acquired his early education in the public and private schools of the home locality, later taking a course in Grove City College, from which he was graduated in 1886 with the degree of M. A. Then he studied for three years in the Western Pennsylvania Medical College, graduating March 28, 1889, and immediately commencing practice in Venango county. During the first three years of his independent career he was located at Seneca, removing to Oil City in 1892, on June 16th of which year he formed a partnership with Drs. J. A. Ritchey and C. W. Coulter. The association lasted until Oct. 1, 1897, when Dr. Coulter retired, the other two partners remaining in practice together until June, 1903, from which time Dr. Magee maintained his own office. Besides looking after the multifarious duties of an extensive patronage, he kept in touch with the incidental activities of his profession in his home territory and beyond, being a member in good standing of the Oil City Medical Society, the Venango County Medical Society, the Pennsylvania State Medical Society and the American Medical Association; a member of the board of examiners of the Oil City Training School for Nurses; surgeon of the Erie railroad for over ten years; and a trustee of the Polk Institute for the Feeble Minded, at Polk, this county, for nine years, having been appointed by three governors. Dr. Magee's professional labors brought him into familiar association with representatives of all classes in the city and county, and recognizing the need of corrective measures in many phases of the administration of local affairs he gave willingly of his time and counsel to attain them, officially and unofficially, as necessity urged and opportunity allowed. For twelve years he was a member of

the Oil City school board, and was three times elected president of that body; he also served two consecutive terms in the State legislature, to which he was elected in 1902 and 1904, in all his public services exhibiting unusual capacity and understanding of the matters intrusted to him by his fellow citizens and fully able to conserve their best interests therein. He was a Republican on political issues. In the year 1911 Dr. Magee made a trip to Europe, his wife and family accompanying him, and they remained abroad several months, Dr. Magee meanwhile taking advantage of the opportunities presented by notable foreign institutions for advanced professional work. While in Scotland he took a special vacation course at the Edinburgh Post Graduate Hospital, in connection with the University and Royal College, returning well fortified to resume practice, in which he was busily engaged up to the time of his death, which occurred at Oil City July 3, 1914. He is buried there. Dr. Magee was a high Mason, affiliated with Petrolia Lodge, No. 363, F. & A. M.; Oil City Chapter, No. 236, R. A. M.; Talbot Commandery, No. 43, K. T.; Pittsburgh Consistory, A. A. S. R.; and Zem Zem Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Erie, Pa. In religion he was a Presbyterian.

On May 2, 1889, Dr. Magee married Mae M. Coulter, who was born Oct. 22, 1870, daughter of Dr. George Webster and Sarah (Crowl) Coulter, and to this marriage were born two daughters: Eva M., born March 17, 1890, was graduated from Wilson College in 1912 and subsequently spent one year in a select school in Berlin; Irene V., born Sept. 8, 1894, is a graduate of the Gardner School for Girls, New York City. They are at home with their mother in Oil City.

Mrs. Mae M. (Coulter) Magee, daughter of Dr. George Webster Coulter and sister of the late Dr. Clarence Webster Coulter, belongs to a family of Irish origin whose American ancestors came across the Atlantic during the latter half of the eighteenth century, several families of Coulters leaving Ireland in that period and settling in Pennsylvania and Nova Scotia, whence many of the name have moved to New England and the Middle West. The name, now largely represented in the North of Ireland, with over twelve hundred families recorded in a recent census, is an ancient one, and is also found written Colter. It first appears in Scotland in records of the twelfth century, and Coulter is the Scotch form of the Norse Kaldr, a Viking name of the eleventh century. This fact, and its occurrence as a

proper name in the very north of Scotland, where many of the personal and place names are of Norse derivation, makes it seem likely that the Coulters are descendants of the Norse Vikings, who early invaded Scotland and Ireland from the north. The Scotch name Calder is without doubt of the same origin. When the English crown granted lands in Ireland for colonization in 1606 to certain men, a great many families from Scotland crossed over and became tenants on lands in Counties Down and Antrim, among them being several Coulters from Galloway. From this time the name appears constantly in Ireland, and in the eighteenth century there were several Coulters among the Presbyterian clergy in Tyrone and Down.

The earliest ancestors in America of the Coulters here under consideration were from these Irish Coulters. When they emigrated is not known. One James Coulter, the first of this line of whom we have definite information, is referred to in records of Plaingrove township, Lawrence Co., Pa., 1796, and is said to have been a tanner. He was twice married, the maiden name of his first wife having been Scott, and his second union having been with Barbara Green, of Greene county, Pa., by whom all of his three children were born, viz.: James; John, who lived and died near Mechanicsville, Butler Co., Pa.; and Fannie, Mrs. Fleming, who lived in Pittsburgh, Pa. The father died about 1810, and is buried at Plaingrove.

James Coulter, son of James (above), born about 1800, became a Presbyterian minister well known in western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, where he filled different charges. He received his higher education at Washington and Jefferson College, taking his theological course there, and was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Ohio. He died at West Sunbury, Butler Co., Pa., where he is buried. On Oct. 6, 1825, he married Mary Offutt, of Plain-grove, Lawrence Co., Pa., and they reared a family of eight children, namely: George Webster was the father of Mrs. Magee; James C., who died while serving in the Civil war, was married March 8, 1858, to Harriet Clark, and had two children, Eugene C. and Rosa; David S., born in 1837, died in 1911, married July 31, 1862, Hannah Scott and had three children, Lowry, Webster and Rose; William, born in 1840, died while serving in the Civil war, in 1861; Brainerd Lowry, born in 1844, was married in 1879 to Mrs. Emma E. (Campbell) Stewart and (second) to Abbie Black, having by the first union two children, J. C.

and L. D.; Mary S., born June 14, 1847, was married Nov. 9, 1869, to Robert P. Black, and died Feb. 17, 1910, the mother of these children, Alfred L. (born March 4, 1872), Lizzie Bertha (born Jan. 9, 1875), Ada Mary (born March 9, 1878) and Lulu E. (born Nov. 15, 1888); John O., born in 1852, married in 1875 Sarah Cunningham; Clara V., born in 1854, married in 1873 George Washington McGill and had children, Alvin, Mabel, Charlotte, Ross, Irma and George.

George Webster Coulter was born Nov. 1, 1830, at New Lisbon, Ohio, and received his education in his native State, attending the public schools in his youth and taking his medical course in the Western Reserve University, Cleveland. When he entered practice he remained about six years at his first location, East Brook, Lawrence Co., Pa., in 1862 removing to Slippery Rock, Butler Co., Pa., where he settled permanently, dying there Aug. 2, 1873. At the time he was secretary of the Butler County Medical Society, in the enjoyment of a large practice, and ranked high in the profession as well as with his patrons. On Sept. 11, 1856, he married Sarah Crowl, who was born Dec. 13, 1837, daughter of Philip and Mary (Fisher) Crowl, of East Brook, and they became the parents of four children: Clarence Webster, born June 7, 1857, mentioned below; William M., born Dec. 7, 1861, who died Dec. 23, 1862; Philip L., born July 14, 1864, mentioned below; and Mae M., born Oct. 22, 1870, widow of Dr. George W. Magee, of Oil City. Her mother, now (1918) eighty years old, makes her home with her.

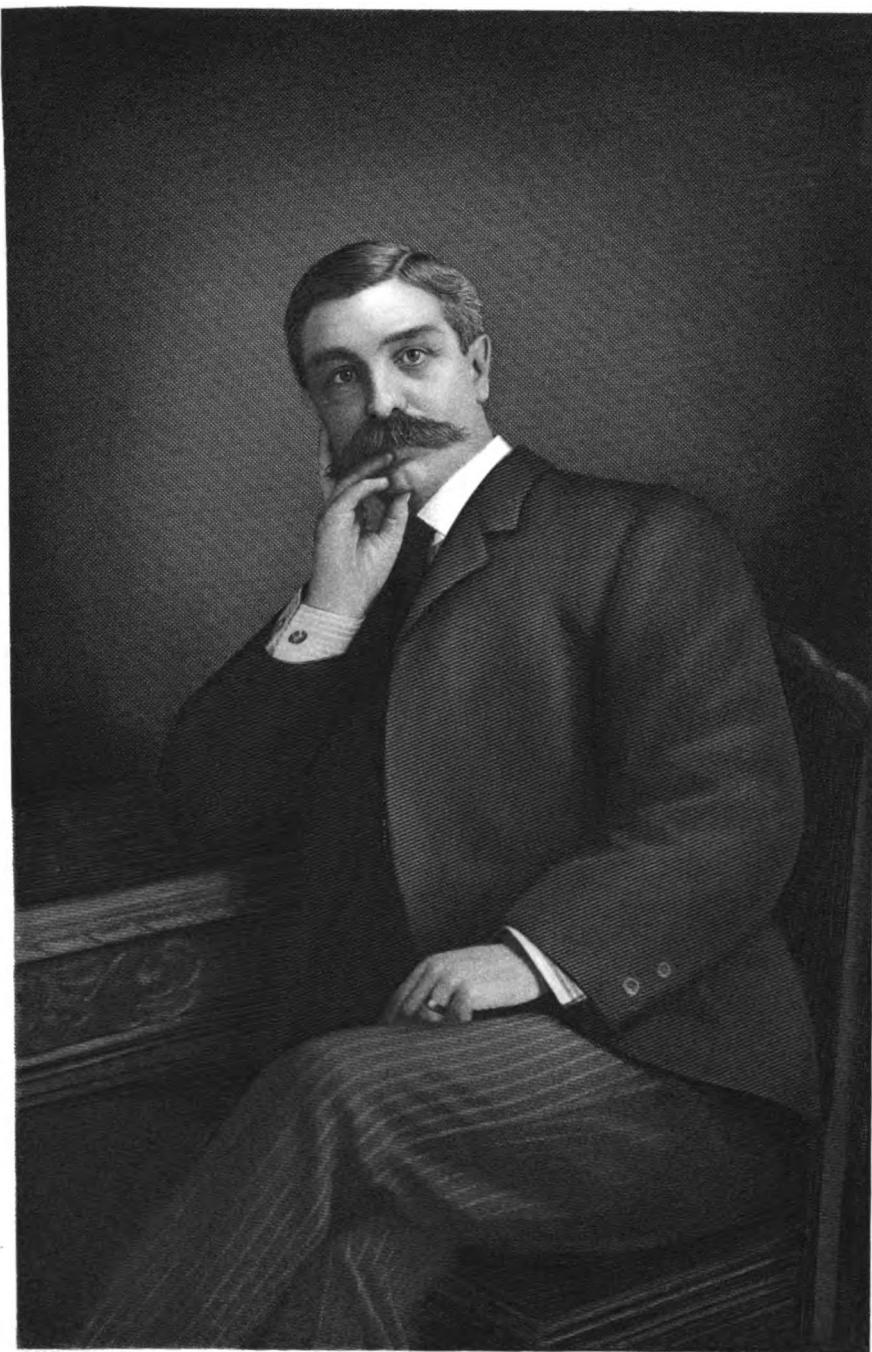
CLARENCE WEBSTER COULTER, M. D., was born at East Brook and grew up at Slippery Rock, where he obtained his early education in public and private schools. During the first part of his independent career he was engaged in the drug business for several years, subsequently taking a course in medicine in the Western University of Pennsylvania, at Pittsburgh, where he was graduated in 1888. Then he took a course in the Post-Graduate Medical College, New York City, in 1888 locating in Oil City, where he was in successful practice until his death, June 10, 1916. Part of the time he was in partnership with his brother-in-law, Dr. George W. Magee. For about twenty-five years he was surgeon for the Pennsylvania railroad, and he was a valued member of the Oil City Medical Club, the Venango County Medical Society, the State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He was a thirty-second-degree Mason, and past eminent

commander of Talbot Commandery, K. T., of Oil City.

On June 12, 1878, Dr. Coulter married Eva Barber, daughter of John Barber, of Plain-grove, Pa., and they had one child, Mabel E., born July 12, 1881, who died April 8, 1895. Mrs. Coulter died Aug. 24, 1886, and Dr. Coulter married (second) Mrs. Olive (Dally) Fullerton, who was born Nov. 12, 1861, daughter of Crawford and Eliza (Lacey) Dally, of Parkers Landing, Pa. She survives him, now residing in Los Angeles, Cal. By this union there are two children: Marion A., born Sept. 28, 1894, wife of Charles F. Blakeslee, of Franklin, Pa., now a private in the United States service; and Clarence D., born Jan. 17, 1897, now in the United States service, in the officers' training school, training at Camp Meade.

Philip L. Coulter, third in the family of Dr. George Webster Coulter, was engaged in the drug business at McDonald, Washington Co., Pa., until his death, Dec. 31, 1910. On May 15, 1883, he married Margaret Young, who was born April 3, 1861.

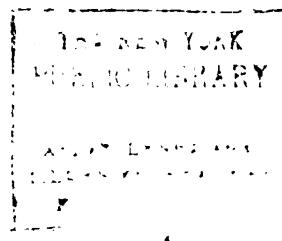
COL. EDWIN VAN DEUSEN SELDEN, of Oil City, has been one of the most distinguished of those men whose brilliant successes have marked the development of Pennsylvania's oil resources. His connection therewith, beginning in 1877, before he had attained his majority, covers four decades of the most notable progress in the history of the country as well as of the oil industry, forming one of its most important chapters. As president for years of the Oil City Oil Exchange he was one of the master minds whose influence was paramount in local oil transactions. The exercise of his remarkable mentality has, however, by no means been restricted to business operations. His family associations and traditions, early environment and personal culture have all been conducive to a breadth of development so unusual in range of thought and discriminative in taste as to proclaim rare intellectual endowments as well as acquirements. Such material success as he attained would completely overshadow the other achievements of an average man. But Colonel Selden has made a reputation apart from that by his public services and social activities, so thoroughly recognized that his support is always sought in any local undertaking of importance with the assurance that it will be obtained if the object is worthy. His interest in all that pertains to the public welfare has manifested itself in the most practical forms.



E. A. Selden

Engr'd by Campbell Brothers N.Y.

E. A. Selden



Colonel Selden's family history in America goes back to the beginning of the settlement at Hartford, Conn. Thomas Selden, from Broadlands, in the County of Kent, England, crossed the Atlantic about 1635, and in 1636 is found among the early settlers at Hartford. He participated in the division of lots in 1639, his name appearing on a monument in Hartford erected to the memory of the original proprietors. He was a freeman in 1640, constable in 1649, and died in 1655, his will being dated Aug. 14, 1655. In it he mentions his wife Hester (Wakeman), brother John Wakeman, cousin Thomas Hosmer, and his children, viz.: Thomas, baptized 1645, who married Felix Lewis, daughter of William Lewis; Mary, baptized March 26, 1648, who married Dec. 12, 1666, John Taylor; Esther, baptized March 3, 1649, who died in June, 1651; John, baptized in May, 1650; Esther; Joseph; Hannah, who died in 1695; and Sarah. The mother of this family remarried, becoming the wife of Deacon Andrew Warner, and removing with him and her five children to Hadley, Mass., in 1659.

Joseph Selden, son of Thomas and Hester (Wakeman) Selden, was baptized Nov. 2, 1651, in Hartford, Conn., and accompanied his mother to Hadley in 1659. He fought in King Philip's war and was in the action at Deerfield. In 1684 he removed to Deerfield, returning to Hadley in 1694, and on Jan. 31, 1696, he bought out the heirs of Hon. John Leverett, and on another occasion made a purchase of Capt. John Cullick. He died July 14, 1724, at Hadlyme, Conn., but is described as of Hadley in the Hadlyme deed. "He was an active and enterprising man," once said Mr. Judd, "somewhat excitable and sometimes rash in his doings." We find that in 1687 he was fined for his wife wearing silk dresses. In 1681 he was assessed for the building of Port River bridge, and in 1687 he paid taxes in Hadley. The property on which the original Selden homestead was built by him is still in the possession of the family. On Feb. 11, 1677, Mr. Selden married Rebecca Church, daughter of Deacon Edward Church, of Hatfield, and she survived him nearly two years, passing away June 2, 1726. She was buried beside her husband in the graveyard at Hadlyme. They had a large family, namely: Rebecca, born Feb. 12, 1678, married James Wells, of Haddam, Conn.; Esther, born April 11, 1680, died July 21, 1681; Joseph, born May 10, 1682, married Ann Chapman, and died April 6, 1729; Thomas, born in 1684, died Sept. 12, 1754 (his wife's name was Sarah);

Hannah, born in 1686, married Daniel Brainerd; Mary, born March 5, 1689, married Isaac Spencer; Esther, born May 2, 1691, married Jabez Chapman; Samuel is next in this line of descent; Sarah, baptized July 30, 1712, died before Feb. 1, 1725; Rebecca married Joseph Ely.

Capt. Samuel Selden, son of Joseph and Rebecca (Church) Selden, was born May 17, 1695, in Hadley, Mass., and died Feb. 28, 1745, in Hadlyme, New London Co., Conn. He was buried in the village of Hamburg, that county, his tombstone bearing the following inscription: "Here lies the body of Samuel Selden, Capt. of the third Company of Foot in Lyme, Deacon of ye Church in this place, who died February the 28th, 1745, in the 50th year of his age, who left behind him seven children." His marriage occurred under rather remarkable circumstances. Observing a notice on the door of the Chester meeting-house, that "Noahdiah Brainerd and Deborah Dudley propose marriage in this house on the next Lord's day," Captain Selden took the notice from the door and substituted one that read, "Samuel Selden of Hadlyme and Deborah Dudley propose," etc. On the day named the Captain appeared early on the steps of the meeting house, armed and equipped according to law, and observing that his notice was undisturbed stood to his post. In due time the congregation began to enter the house, likewise the minister, all of them reading the notice. Shortly after Lieut. Joseph Dudley arrived with his wife and daughter Deborah, whom Captain Selden addressed affectionately, walked in with her and up the aisle, and they were married according to the solemn forms then obtaining. He took his bride across the river the same day, not a word of objection or sign of resistance being made at that time or afterward. Their wedding ring, now in the possession of Colonel Selden, of Oil City, bears the inscription, "Beauty is a Fair, but Virtue is a Precious Jewel." It is worthy of note, however, that after Captain Selden's death she married (second) Noahdiah Brainerd. She lived to a great age, having been born Nov. 15, 1701, and died in 1799 at Saybrook, Conn. Captain Selden was successively ensign, lieutenant and captain of the Third Company of Foot in Lyme; ensign, 1733; lieutenant, 1738; deputy, 1743-44. His children were: Samuel, mentioned below; Ezra, born Nov. 5, 1727, who married Elizabeth Rogers, (second) Amy Ely and (third) Hannah Marion; Deborah, born Sept. 2, 1733, who married Stephen Nott; Rebecca, who married Wells Ely; Sarah, who

married David Jewett; Mehitabel, who married Oct. 14, 1762, Daniel Marvin, and (second) Abraham Pratt; and Abigail, wife of Benjamin Nott.

Col. Samuel Selden, son of Capt. Samuel and Deborah (Dudley) Selden, was born Jan. 11, 1723, in Hadlyme, Conn., and died while a soldier in the Revolutionary war, Nov. 11, 1776, a prisoner of war in New York City. In June, 1776, he was commissioned major of Col. Gurdon Saltonstall's 3d Regiment, Connecticut Militia; promoted to colonel, June 20, 1776, 4th Battalion, Connecticut Militia, Wadsworth's Brigade; and was stationed on the East river when the British attacked New York, Sept. 15th, being taken prisoner near where Thirty-fourth street now is and confined in the Brick Church until his death. It had always been thought by the family that he had died aboard the notorious "Jersey" prison ship, and his body thrown with a multitude of others into the sea, until 1876, when at a centenary sermon preached by Mr. Bushnell in the Brick Church reference was made to two letters written by British officers speaking in eulogistic terms of an American officer, Col. Samuel Selden, who had recently died in said church and was the first person interred in the churchyard. Mrs. Abner Ely, a granddaughter of the Colonel, was present at the sermon. The brief information of his death had been taken to his home by his body servant, one John Saunders, and though never considered satisfactory could be neither verified nor disproved by his family. The man pretended that he had nursed the Colonel until he was carried off to the prison ship. Colonel Selden had been appointed to the command of the first regiment raised in New London county for the service of the country after serving in the military successively as ensign, lieutenant, captain and major. He held a distinguished public position, having been justice of the peace from 1753 until his death, and a deputy to the General Assembly from 1756 to 1776. He was deacon of the Church at Hadlyme, a man of great wealth for the times, of high social position and prestige, untarnished name and unquestioned bravery and military skill. Such was his devotion to his country's cause that he left his home at the very beginning of the Revolutionary struggle, never to return to it, leaving his wife and their twelve surviving children. His house, recently built, was the finest one in all that region at the time. The estate was settled according to the laws then obtaining in Connecticut, the widow receiving her dower, the children their several

shares of the real and personal property, and the negro servants, of whom there were a large number, were liberated. At that time the whole county of New London was one probate district, the court being established at New London and all documents relating to the settlement of estates being kept there; but though the British took, sacked and burned the city, reducing the records of the Probate court to ashes, Colonel Selden's will is in existence, and Col. E. V. D. Selden has a copy of it.

On May 23, 1745, Colonel Selden married Elizabeth Ely, who was born Oct. 11, 1724, and died Feb. 2, 1802, at Hadlyme, Conn. Thirteen children were born to this marriage: Elizabeth, born April 16, 1747, married Elisha Marvin; Samuel, born Nov. 1, 1748, married Sarah Marvin and (second) Deborah Colt; Esther, born June 22, 1750, died June 8, 1751; Elijah, born Feb. 21, 1752, married Eunice Comstock. (second) Hannah Tracy and (third) Wealthy Hall; Deborah, born Dec. 29, 1753, married Dr. Joseph Spencer; Charles, born Nov. 23, 1755, married Abigail Jones; Jemima, born Sept. 3, 1757, married Joel Loomis; Richard Ely, born May 25, 1759, married Desire Colt and (second) Hope Chapman; Mary, born April 22, 1761, married Abner Lord; George was the great-grandfather of Col. E. V. D. Selden; Joseph Dudley, born Dec. 30, 1764, married Ethelinda Colt; Dorothy, born Dec. 26, 1766, married Selden Warner; Roger, born April 16, 1769, married Mary Schuyler Douglas.

Dr. George Selden, son of Col. Samuel and Elizabeth (Ely) Selden, was born Feb. 27, 1763, at the old homestead in Hadlyme, Conn., and was educated at Yale College, graduating M. A. in 1787. Subsequently he took up the study of medicine, probably with his brother-in-law, Dr. Joseph Spencer, and on the completion of his medical studies started west, having quite an adventurous experience. While descending the Ohio river he was captured by Indians, who took him beyond the Mississippi river, where he was kept in captivity for some time, finally escaping and going to New Orleans, whence he returned to Connecticut. Later he located at Vienna, Va., remaining there until his removal to Millersburg, Ky., in 1803. He died at the latter place May 27, 1817. He was in successful practice throughout the period of his residence there, enjoying a high reputation for his professional skill, and numbered the family of Henry Clay among his patrons and admirers. On May 10, 1795, Dr. Selden married Olive West, who was born July 11, 1775, at Glassworks Grant, near

Stockbridge, Mass., being a descendant of Francis West, of Duxbury, Mass., who died Jan. 2, 1694. Mrs. Selden died June 10, 1831, in Paris, Ky. Five children were born to this marriage, the eldest, George, being the grandfather of Col. E. V. D. Selden; Maria, born April 20, 1798, married Feb. 22, 1815, John Tribby, and died Feb. 27, 1849; Olive, born Sept. 8, 1800, married Dr. Archimedes Smith, of Jacksonville, Ill., and died Aug. 24, 1868; Samuel West, born in 1810, an Episcopal clergyman, died Aug. 3, 1834; Elizabeth Ely, born March 15, 1815, died in 1823.

George Selden, son of Dr. George and Olive (West) Selden, was born Aug. 17, 1796, in Vienna, Va., and entered the legal profession, in which he won deserved prominence and distinction. He studied law with John B. Wallace, Esq., in Philadelphia, where he was admitted to the bar Sept. 4, 1817, about which time he was editor of a newspaper called *The Union*. In 1818-19 he moved to Meadville, Pa., as attorney for the Holland Land Company, and remained there several years, in 1827 going to Pittsburgh to take charge of the law practice of Richard Biddle, Esq. He returned to Meadville in 1835 and died there shortly afterward, on April 28th of that year, in his early prime, and at the height of a successful legal career. He had acknowledged talents and ability for the calling of his choice, and his reliable knowledge of the law made him a trustworthy attorney, with accordingly high rank in the profession. He was vestryman of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Meadville in 1825, and of Trinity Church in Pittsburgh from 1828 until 1832. On Feb. 21, 1820, Mr. Selden married Sophie Louise Shattuck, who was born April 24, 1801, in St. Thomas, West Indies, and died Aug. 28, 1868, at Meadville, Pa. Four children were born of this union: Adelaide Louise, born April 12, 1821, married May 7, 1848, Arthur Cullum, and died in 1887; George Shattuck was the only son; Mary Elizabeth, born May 3, 1824, died Oct. 16, 1831; Sophie Matilda, born Jan. 27, 1829, married May 12, 1853, Leon Chappotin Magaw, and died May 28, 1862.

Mrs. Sophie Louise (Shattuck) Selden was a daughter of Jared Shattuck, merchant, a descendant of William Shattuck, who died Aug. 14, 1672, at Watertown, Mass. Her mother was a daughter of Gen. Alexandre de Vincent de Mazade (Marechal des Camps), chevalier de Saint Louis, governor general of Santo Domingo (Haiti) 1787, 1789, under Louis XVI of France. The General married Marie Theresa Sophie de Chappotin, and

descended through her mother from an ancient Spanish family of Burgos, in the Kingdom of Castile, and a descendant of Jean de Chappotin, a captain in the service of Francis I. of France who distinguished himself at the battle of Marignano, in 1515; for his bravery and services he was given letters of nobility by that monarch. Her descent from him was through Jean (2), Jean (3), Pierre (who married in 1650 Marie Lallemande), Jean (4), Jean Batiste and Denis, father of Marie Theresa Sophie. General de Vincent de Mazade was descended from one of the noblest families of France, an ancient house of whom there is record as early as the eleventh century, in Languedoc and Dauphiny.

George Shattuck Selden was born Dec. 3, 1822, at Meadville, Pa., and there acquired most of his education, taking a course at Allegheny College and later reading law with Judge David Derrickson, of that city, where he was admitted to the bar Dec. 17, 1843. He immediately located in Pittsburgh, where he was admitted to practice a few weeks later, Jan. 17, 1844, and where he built up a large law practice during his residence in that city, making a specialty of patent cases, which he was well qualified to handle, being himself an inventor of considerable merit and possessing practical as well as legal knowledge for that department of practice. He was one of the pioneers in the extraction of oil from cannel coal, being interested in that business in 1855 at Kiskiminetas, Pa., but after establishing a profitable trade in that line he found it demolished, like that of many other oil manufacturers, with the discovery of natural mineral oil in great quantities. In 1861 he returned to Meadville, six years later removing to Philadelphia, where he followed his profession, part of the time in partnership with Hon. William Freame Johnson, at one time governor of Pennsylvania, occupying an influential position among the legal fraternity. He died Sept. 27, 1894, at Homestead, Pa. Mr. Selden was an Episcopalian in religious connection, and served as vestryman of St. Peter's Church, in Pittsburgh, in 1853, later holding the same position in St. John's Church, Pittsburgh.

On Sept. 22, 1842, Mr. Selden married Elizabeth Wright Clark, daughter of Connor and Jane (Brooks) Clark, her father a merchant of Meadville. Her mother was a daughter of Judge John Brooks. Mrs. Selden was a great-granddaughter of Lieut. Aaron Wright, who served in the Revolution and in the war of 1812. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. George Shattuck Selden, namely: (1) George

de Vincent, born Nov. 25, 1843, was a Union soldier at the time of his death, which occurred at Frederick, Md., Sept. 17, 1863, from wounds received at Gettysburg July 3d. He entered the service in 1861, serving on the staff of Gen. James H. Lane in Missouri, later entered the service in 1862 as second lieutenant of Company H, 150th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and had been commissioned second lieutenant of Company H, 2d United States Cavalry, on April 6, 1863, serving with that regiment when injured. (2) Connor Clark, born Sept. 8, 1845, enlisted July 1, 1863, in Company F, 58th Pennsylvania Regiment. On Dec. 9, 1884, he married Mary Wilson, and they have two children, Sophie Louise and Mary Louise. (3) Leon Shattuck, born Aug. 14, 1847, died July 11, 1848. (4) Jennie Louise, born April 10, 1849, died March 7, 1850. (5) Sophie Louise, born Sept. 25, 1851, married Sept. 26, 1876, Harry Rogers. (6) Elizabeth Shattuck, born July 11, 1853, died March 20, 1854. (7) Arthur Cullum, born Feb. 20, 1855, married June 21, 1894, Annie Russell, and has one son, George de Vincent. (8) Elizabeth Pennock, born Sept. 11, 1857, married Sept. 30, 1884, Alexander Henry Lane, and their two children are Edwin Selden and Mildred Hansell. (9) Edwin Van Deusen was next in the family. (10) Jane Clark, born Sept. 9, 1860, died Aug. 27, 1910.

Edwin Van Deusen Selden was born Dec. 23, 1858, at Lawrenceville (now a part of the city of Pittsburgh), Allegheny Co., Pa. The family returning to Meadville in 1861 and removing to Philadelphia six years later, he acquired his early education in public and private schools in those cities, closing with a course in the Episcopal Academy at Philadelphia. His father and grandfather having attained distinction in the legal profession it was quite natural that he should have felt some inclination toward it, but after a year's study in his father's office, begun in 1876, he turned to business pursuits—and has never had any reason to regret his choice. In 1877 he went to Parker's Landing, Pa., at that time a great oil center, to clerk for his brother, and his mental agility was even then manifested in the rapidity with which he mastered the details of the business, although it was new to him. Before long he had established himself at Oil City, where in 1878 he became a member of the Oil Exchange, one of the leading centers of oil transactions in the world. His own operations made him one of its foremost representatives, and he was its president for a number of years, taking a prominent part in its

activities during the most exciting period of the oil market and participating in some of the most memorable scenes ever witnessed in any commercial exchange. He was a well known figure on the floor for twenty years or more. With his usual vision and ability to grasp the meaning of transitions in ideas and methods, Colonel Selden was one of the first of the petroleum brokers to realize that speculation in oil certificates had had its day, and he withdrew from that branch to devote himself to refining Pennsylvania oil, being a prime mover in the establishment of the Crystal Oil Works at Rouseville, in which he has since been heavily interested. He formed a partnership with Hon. James A. Fawcett in 1897 for the foundation of this business, and though they met with formidable competition at the outset they persevered until it was established upon a solid basis. Colonel Selden also has heavy investments as an oil producer. His other business interests include responsible financial connections. He was formerly president of the Venango Security, Building & Loan Association, and at the same time of the Home Savings & Loan Association, of which he is still the executive head.

For a number of years Colonel Selden was a prominent member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, having been first lieutenant and quartermaster of the 16th Regiment of Infantry from 1888 to 1895; colonel of the 21st Regiment of Infantry from 1898 to 1900; and lieutenant colonel and division inspector of rifle practice from 1900 to 1905, on the staff of Gen. Charles Miller. Socially he holds membership in the Pennsylvania Society of Founders and Patriots of America, the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Ivy and Venango Clubs, and the Masonic fraternity, affiliating with Petrolia Lodge, No. 363, F. & A. M.; Oil City Chapter, No. 236, R. A. M.; Talbot Commandery, No. 42, K. T.; Venango Lodge of Perfection; Pittsburgh Consistory, thirty-second degree; and Zem Zem Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Erie, Pa. His religious connection is with Christ Protestant Episcopal Church of Oil City, which he serves as vestryman and member of the official board. Colonel Selden has one of the finest libraries in Venango county.

On Jan. 2, 1901, Colonel Selden was married at Oil City to Cornelia Fuller Earp, who was born Aug. 22, 1873, in Grand Rapids, Mich., and they have five children, born as follows: John Earp, Jan. 28, 1902; Edwin Van Deusen, Jr., July 5, 1903; Elizabeth, March

27, 1905; George Samuel, Feb. 1, 1907; William Kirkpatrick, Nov. 11, 1911.

Rev. Dr. Samuel Earp, father of Mrs. Selden, was born May 31, 1844, in West Bromwich, Staffordshire, England, not far from the city of Birmingham, son of William and Ann (Tansey) Earp. He accompanied his parents to this country when six years old, the family living first at Scranton, Pa., and later at Danville, this State, where Samuel was prepared for college in the old Danville Academy under Prof. James Kelso. He was graduated from St. John's College, Maryland, with the degree of bachelor of arts, receiving the master's degree in later years from Hobart College, and that of doctor of philosophy from Washington and Jefferson College. Though only a boy when the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in a Danville company of militia which was on its way to Antietam when the battle was fought there, and which was subsequently disbanded.

For a year after his graduation from college Dr. Earp was engaged in tutoring at Burlington College, in New Jersey, after which he took a three years' course in the General Theological Seminary of New York, being ordained to the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1868. For twenty-one years he was actively engaged in ministerial duties, at the end of which he retired from parochial work and settled at Oil City, Pa., in 1889. His various charges were at Sewickley, Pa., where he remained for two years; Grand Rapids, Mich., where he was rector of St. Mark's, the leading parish in the western part of the State; St. Andrew's, New York City, 1877 to 1879; Washington, Pa., where he remained for nearly seven years, there founding Trinity Hall, a school for boys, for Bishop Kerfoot, of Pittsburgh, and being its first rector; and St. Andrew's, at Ann Arbor, Mich. While at Grand Rapids he was largely instrumental in the setting apart of the diocese of western Michigan, and was a candidate for its first bishop, in 1874, losing by only a few votes. From the time of his removal to Oil City he devoted himself to educational work, continuing teaching up to the time of his death, which occurred June 17, 1906. For sixteen years he was a foremost educator of Oil City, his great scholarship and special aptitude for imparting knowledge leaving a profound impress upon the character of those who came under his care. At the time of his death the *Oil City Derrick* said of him: "In Dr. Earp this community has lost a broad-minded, earnest man, and an influence for good that can not be overestimated. As a teacher, a minister of the

gospel and a citizen, he was equally prominent. His personal qualities, high character and courteous bearing endeared him to all, and his death will cause a deep feeling of sorrow in many hearts outside of the circle of his immediate relatives and most intimate friends."

On Dec. 22, 1868, Dr. Earp married Mary Elizabeth Johnston, daughter of Col. Robert and Jane (Kirkpatrick) Johnston, and a descendant of Maj. John Johnston, of Cumberland county, Pa., a Revolutionary officer. Four children were born to this union: John Kirkpatrick, born Nov. 18, 1869, is a business man of Oil City, where he resides; Mary Baldy, born Feb. 26, 1871, died Dec. 9, 1873; Cornelia Fuller is the wife of Col. Edwin Van Deusen Selden; William Henry Hinsdale, born May 30, 1876, died Feb. 24, 1898.

JOHN BOWMAN GLENN, M. D., of Franklin, is one of the oldest physicians in active practice in Venango county, a veteran member of the county medical society, and one of the most popular men in the profession in this section of Pennsylvania. Dr. Glenn belongs to a family which has been settled in this part of the State for over a century, and whose representatives in every generation have shown creditable ideals of service in choosing their life work. His success as a medical practitioner, and helpful activities in his personal and civic relations, is his individual expression of the high moral standards and strict sense of responsibility which have characterized the members of the family generally. His father, Rev. Robert Glenn, was an earnest minister of the gospel in Venango county for more than twenty-five years, exerting an influence for good which could not fail to be of permanent benefit.

The Glenns are of Scotch-Irish origin. James Glenn, great-grandfather of Dr. John B. Glenn, was the first of the family in this region, removing to Butler county from York county, Pa., prior to the year 1800. He was one of the early farmers in his district, and most respected as a citizen. His wife was a sister of Lord Nelson, of England, and they spent the remainder of their lives in Butler county, where they are buried. Among their children was a son Samuel.

Samuel Glenn, son of James Glenn, was a young man when he accompanied his father from York county to western Pennsylvania before 1800. He was occupied as a farmer and bridge builder. Later he located in the adjoining county of Mercer, in Pennsylvania, where he died when about eighty years of

age. He married a Miss Cunningham, of what was then Pinegrove township, Butler county, and they had four children, namely: Robert; Cunningham, who died when a young man, leaving two sons and one daughter; Mrs. John Pew, who died in Mercer county; and Mrs. Joseph Pew (the sisters married brothers), who lived in West Virginia.

Rev. Robert Glenn, son of Samuel Glenn, was born March 22, 1802, in Wolf Creek township, Mercer Co., Pa. He was highly educated and became one of the early ministers of the Presbyterian Church in western Pennsylvania. After attending the academy at Canonsburg, Washington Co., Pa., and graduating from Jefferson College, at Canonsburg, in 1828, he entered the Western Theological Seminary, at Allegheny, and on the 3d of February, 1831, at a meeting of the Presbytery of Erie held at Mercer, Pa., was licensed to preach. The ensuing year he spent chiefly in supplying the vacant pulpits of the congregations at Amity, Mill Creek and Sandy Lake. At a meeting of the Presbytery of Erie held at Mill Creek, Sept. 12, 1832, he was ordained and installed pastor of the congregation at Mill Creek, Venango county, also giving part of his time to Amity and Sandy Lake. He made his home at Mill Creek, where he had a farm and reared his family. On April 3, 1850, Mr. Glenn discontinued serving the charge at Amity and about the same time that at Sandy Lake, and on June 18, 1850, became the pastor of the Big Sugar Creek Church, supplying both Big Sugar Creek and Mill Creek until his death, which occurred Sept. 6, 1857. He is buried in Mill Creek Church cemetery. Mr. Glenn did notable work in advancing facilities for education in his neighborhood. Largely through his influence select schools were organized and competent teachers secured, and when no more suitable place could be had the church building at Mill Creek was used for school purposes—a modern idea which then found little favor among the strict Presbyterians who worshipped there. It was principally due to his efforts that the commodious building of the Utica Academy, since destroyed by fire, was erected in 1855.

Mr. Glenn married, in Mercer county, Rebecca Wycoff, who was born in Crawford county, Pa., a daughter of John Wycoff and of Holland-Dutch ancestry. John Wycoff settled in Blooming Valley, Crawford Co., Pa., and later in Mercer county. Mrs. Glenn died fifteen years after her marriage, leaving the following children: Sarah J., who was the wife of Thomas Alexander, of Mercer county,

died in 1878; Eliza B. became the wife of Rev. W. W. McKinney, a Presbyterian minister, who later located in Philadelphia, where he publishes the church paper known as "The Presbyterian"; Caroline F. married James Cassidy, of Utica, Pa., and died June 8, 1863; William Wycoff Glenn died in Coos county, Oregon; Samuel M. Glenn became a Presbyterian minister, educated in the same institutions as his father, and is now living at Wooster, Ohio, past seventy years old (for a time he was the Presbyterian minister at Clintonville, Venango county); and Dr. John Bowman Glenn. For his second wife Rev. Robert Glenn married Mary Ann McCracken, who lived only eight months afterwards. On Dec. 10, 1849, he married (third) Harriet Finley, of Evansburg, Crawford Co., Pa., who survived him. Three children were born to this marriage: Hon. Robert F., an attorney at law in practice at Franklin, Pa., served as a member of the legislature from this district and also as mayor of Franklin; George Stuart, born Aug. 12, 1855, died Feb. 18, 1873; Harriet A. resides in the city of Franklin.

John Bowman Glenn was born Dec. 2, 1838, at Mill Creek, in French Creek township, Venango Co., Pa., and spent his early life upon the homestead at Mill Creek. He received his primary education in the local schools, later attending the academy at Utica, this county, and in his early manhood taught school, in Canal township, Utica and North Sandy Creek township, this county. On June 1, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, 10th Pennsylvania Reserves, and served three years in the Civil war, receiving his discharge June 2, 1864. He took part in all the engagements of his company during that period. After his military experience he returned to Venango county and resumed teaching, but had continued it only one term in public school when he began the study of medicine, with Drs. Johnston and Cochran, of Cochranton, Crawford Co., Pa. He completed the regular course at Jefferson Medical College in 1872, and at the time of his graduation became a life member of the Alumni. Meantime he had acquired considerable practical experience in the profession, having begun practice at Polk, Venango county, in 1867. In the fall of 1867, he located at Freedom, in Rockland township, Venango county, where he carried on the general practice of medicine until his removal to Franklin in November, 1887. There he is still engaged, and though in his eighty-first year retains his zest for all the interests of life, attending to his daily duties with little abate-

ment of energy and enthusiasm. He has kept pace with the advancements in the practice and theory of medicine, and has supported the various activities of the profession whose object tended toward the diffusion of knowledge and general enlightenment, especially in matters of hygiene. He became a member of the Venango County Medical Society in 1867, at its second meeting, has served as president of this body, and has always been one of its valued members. He became a member of the Pension Examining Board during the administration of President Chester A. Arthur, in 1881, and is still serving in that capacity. For ten years he was physician at the County Home, and for the last five years has been the physician to the jail, still acting as such. Dr. Glenn's breadth of character and farsightedness fit him well for the larger responsibilities of his calling, though they have made him no less useful in the more restricted activities of private practice. By doing his share in both he has widened his own experience and been enabled to do more for mankind generally.

In November, 1867, Dr. Glenn married Isabella Mitchell, daughter of Samuel Mitchell, of Polk, Pa., later of Franklin, Pa. She died in 1910. Their only child, Harriet, is now the wife of Charles Brelling, of Franklin.

Dr. Glenn is a Democrat in political opinion, and a faithful supporter of his party.

JAMES A. FAWCETT is a name of most honorable associations in Oil City, where Mr. Fawcett's interests have centered for over a quarter of a century. Like many successful business men of that city he has found his chief interest in the oil business, and though his investments are mostly local he has a national reputation among oil men in the several branches of the industry, being one of the progressive spirits who have joined forces for its advancement and protection. He is equally popular for his achievements in behalf of his home community, which he has served officially and unofficially with unselfish zeal, some of the most significant improvements having been made during his residence there.

Mr. Fawcett came to Oil City from Cleveland, Ohio, where he was born Aug. 1, 1861. It was during the year of his birth that his uncle, James A. Fawcett, started one of the first refineries at Oil City, operating it until his untimely death in 1865, when he was killed in an accident on the Erie railroad at Susquehanna, Pa. He is remembered as a man of ability, of excellent character and fine personality. In May, 1887, Thomas F. Wright

had established the Crystal Oil Works, located at Rouseville, near Oil City, Pa., in which John W. Fawcett and his son James A. had taken some stock. When Mr. Wright's health became impaired, in 1890, James A. Fawcett came here to relieve him of the management temporarily and give him a chance to recuperate. But Mr. Wright did not regain his health as he expected, and Mr. Fawcett continued here in charge, he and his father eventually buying the plant. In 1904 James A. Fawcett became sole owner, withdrawing entirely from the Cleveland works. From the comparatively insignificant beginning of four hundred barrels of crude oil daily capacity, and with no facilities for the manufacture of by-products, Mr. Fawcett has built up the Crystal Oil Works to a foremost concern. In 1906 Col. E. V. D. Selden acquired a half ownership, which gave increased resources and made enlargement of the plant possible. The plant has been gradually increased to a capacity of one thousand barrels of crude oil daily, and the necessary machinery installed for the manufacture of wax as well as the numerous other by-products which science has taught the refiners to obtain. The company has catered especially to railroad trade, being one of the largest independent distributors of oils particularly adapted for such use, and enjoys a large foreign patronage, the output going to practically every civilized land on the globe. The plant now covers eight acres of ground, and holds an important place in the prosperity of Oil City, giving profitable employment to forty-two men constantly. The company owns fifty tank cars, which are kept in regular service distributing the product.

Aside from the Crystal Oil Works Mr. Fawcett has a number of important interests, some of a business character, and others connected with the welfare of his fellow men, in individual and community life. He was a director of the Pure Oil Company before it passed into the ownership of the Ohio Cities Gas Company; was secretary of the Oil City and Titusville Refiners' Association; and a member of the National Petroleum Association. His effective participation in the activities of these various organizations made him an influential figure in oil circles. In his earlier manhood he took an enthusiastic interest in military matters, being connected with Brooks Military Academy at Cleveland, and the Cleveland Gatling Gun Battery, so it is not surprising he should have volunteered his services when the United States entered the war with Germany. This he did and was

commissioned a major, serving until the armistice was signed, Nov. 11, 1918.

From the time he established his residence at Oil City Mr. Fawcett has been prominent in local affairs. Though a Democrat in a Republican community with a normal majority of six hundred votes, he was elected mayor by a handsome majority in the fall of 1895, and served from 1896 to 1899, with a record which justified the support that he had received as a candidate. It was during his term that the excellent water system which the city now enjoys was installed, as well as the electric light plant, adequate sewerage facilities, and other noteworthy improvements looking to the conservation of the health and general well-being of the townspeople. Mr. Fawcett has indeed been an open advocate of the best institutions promoted in the city, and every worthy enterprise counting him among its valued supporters. He has been one of the friends of the Y. M. C. A.; a leading member of the Episcopal Church, serving as one of the vestry and secretary of that body; and was one of the organizers of the local lodge of B. P. O. Elks and of the Venango Club. As a Democrat he has been quite prominent in the work of the party in Venango county, and has served as county chairman. He was once nominated as the candidate for the State legislature from this district, but was defeated, though he polled an overwhelming home vote. Whether in personal, business or official associations, no man in the city has more loyal friends.

In 1885 Mr. Fawcett married Carrie C. White, of Cleveland, and they have three children, Earl W., John W. and Helen. Both the sons completed the course in the Oil City high school, attended Dr. Earp's private school in Oil City, and later graduated from the Jacob Tome School for Boys at Port Deposit, Md. Earl W. Fawcett is now general manager for the Midland Refining Company at Eldorado, Kans. John W. Fawcett is a lieutenant in the quartermaster's department, U. S. A., now serving in France. Helen is the wife of Wellington G. Weidler, of Oil City, now a captain in the quartermaster's department.

PETER MOORE SPEER was born in Oakland township, Venango Co., Pa., Dec. 29, 1862. He received his early education in the country schools and at the age of fifteen began teaching school. Continuing to teach for several years, he thus earned the money to attend college, meanwhile preparing for college by pri-

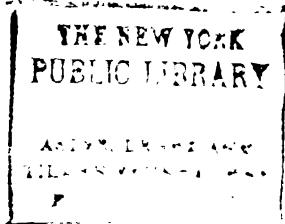
vate study. He entered Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., as a freshman, attending there one year; also studied at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa., one term, and afterward entered the senior class of Washington and Jefferson College, at Washington, Pa., where he graduated in 1887 with the degree of A. B., being awarded the honor of a commencement oration. In 1890 he delivered the master's oration and was awarded the degree of A. M.

Mr. Speer read law at Oil City, Pa., and was admitted to the bar of Venango county, Pa., in 1889, immediately beginning the practice of law at Oil City, in said county, where he has resided and continued in practice until the present time. He has been unusually successful in cases before the Supreme court of the State, involving the construction of the Constitution and Statutes, frequently reversing the lower courts. Among such cases in which the lower court was reversed are Canavan vs. City, where he established the right of a city to maintain uncovered gutters at street crossings; City of Franklin vs. Hancock, sustaining the constitutionality of the city charter allowing the city to sue in assump-sit for paving assessments; Pettit vs. R. R. Co., holding the railroad company liable for damages to oil properties from a slide caused by excavating the railroad right of way; and recently the case of City vs. Postal Telegraph Company, sustaining the right of the city to compel the telegraph company to put its wires underground, thus enabling the city to remove from its streets the menace of a mass of wires. Perhaps the most notable case won by him was that of Simpson vs. Pennsylvania Railroad Company, a suit for personal injuries in which he obtained a verdict for plaintiff of \$41,500, the largest verdict but one ever obtained in Pennsylvania in such a case.

In 1891 Mr. Speer was elected on the Republican ticket as district attorney for Venango county, and served one term of three years, during which time he personally conducted the prosecutions, with an unusually large percentage of convictions. He convicted several of a gang of horse thieves and burglars operating through several of the adjoining counties, and effectively broke up their organization. In 1895 he was elected city solicitor for the city of Oil City, and re-elected for five successive terms—eleven years in all. He was elected on the Republican ticket and served as a member of the Pennsylvania legislature in 1897. During this session he spoke against and was instrumental in defeating a most obnoxious bill



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known as the Electric Light Bill, which would have prevented cities from owning their own electric light plants. He also had charge of and procured the passage of a bill amending in many essential particulars the law relating to third-class cities, which among other things gave to such cities the right to construct conduits and compel electric wires to be placed underground. This beneficial act was vetoed by the governor, lest it might confiscate the poles of telegraph companies. In 1910 Mr. Speer was elected on the Republican ticket as a member of the Sixty-second Congress, and served one term. He was renominated in 1912, but was defeated by the split in the Republican party. In Congress he was an earnest supporter of a Tariff Commission, of a Workmen's Compensation Law, of the enlargement of our navy and building of more battleships, and of a number of laws improving the conditions of labor. He spoke in favor of a Parcel Post Law, which was finally enacted by this Congress, after a struggle of more than a quarter of a century.

Mr. Speer has been president of the Petroleum Telephone Company since its organization. It is one of the most successful of the independent telephone companies operating in Oil City, Franklin, Titusville, and the surrounding territory. The policy of this company, under his presidency, has been to make connections with farmers' telephone lines, so as to extend the telephone service throughout the country districts, with the result that practically every prominent farmer in the county now has fairly good telephone service.

In 1891, Mr. Speer married Isabella Paul, of Titusville, Pa., who was a graduate of Westminster College with the degree of A. B. She was manager of the Women's Edition of the Oil City *Derrick*, which the ladies of Oil City published some years ago with great success, and has been active in and president of the Belles Lettres Club of Oil City, and was at one time a director of the State Federation of Women's Clubs of Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Speer have had two children: A son, Stuart Paul Speer, a graduate of Harvard University and of the Harvard Law School, and now in the United States service as Captain of Infantry; and a daughter, Katharine, married to Thomas M. Brown, of Franklin, Pennsylvania.

ALEXANDER SPEER, of Oakland township, Venango Co., Pa., was a native of Ireland, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and came to America in 1840. He had been preceded by

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two uncles, one of whom was a Dublin University man, who for a short time conducted a private school in Philadelphia, but his health failing the two brothers came to Oakland township, Venango county, where they purchased a tract of land of about two hundred and twenty-five acres, and began to clear it up. When Alexander came, after working in the rolling mills at Franklin for a short time, and teaching a term of school, he arranged to purchase the farm from his uncles, and resided there until his death. He was one of the principal supporting members of the Oakland United Presbyterian Church, and highly respected for his ability, integrity and fair dealing. He was an ardent and active Republican, yet notwithstanding was repeatedly elected justice of the peace, although the township was overwhelmingly Democratic. He succeeded in having practically every case that was brought before him settled, persuading his neighbors to avoid litigation, and always throwing off his costs to obtain a settlement.

Mr. Speer was married to Grizsey Ann Hays, also of Scotch-Irish descent, and they had seven children, five of whom survive: William J. and Rebecca, residing on the homestead; Mrs. Mary Fleming and Robert N., residing in Franklin; and Peter M., residing at Oil City. Both the parents lived to be seventy-six years of age, dying within a year of each other.

SAMUEL PLUMER, eldest son of Arnold and Margaret (McClelland) Plumer, was born April 2, 1830, in Franklin, Pa., and died Oct. 8, 1902. He received his rudimentary education in the schools of his native town, afterward taking a two years' course in the academy at Jamestown, N. Y., and then entering Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., where he studied two years more. He read law under the guidance of Judge Alexander McCalmont, obtaining admission to the bar July 7, 1852, and immediately began practice. Forming a partnership with Edwin C. Wilson, he maintained the connection during the ensuing three years. In the autumn of 1855 Mr. Plumer removed to Minnesota, where he practiced his profession until the spring of 1857, when he was appointed by President Buchanan as register of the land office for southern Minnesota, serving in this capacity most creditably until the beginning of the Lincoln administration. Returning then to Franklin, he there associated himself in the practice of law with James K. Kerr. His thorough equipment, profound and comprehensive learning and great innate ability caused

Mr. Plumer to be recognized as an acknowledged leader of the local bar, and he soon attracted an extended and important clientele.

Mr. Plumer continued active in his profession until the death of his father, but being then elected president of the First National Bank of Franklin he thenceforth devoted his attention to the affairs of that institution, taking an influential part in the promotion of its interests. His talents as a financier were of a high order, and his executive force was of the greatest service in the development of the important enterprise of which he was the head. As a true citizen, Mr. Plumer ever accorded to every movement tending to promote the general welfare his ready support and hearty cooperation. Always steadfastly adhering to the principles of the Democratic party, he was a vigilant and attentive observer of men and measures, and possessed to a remarkable degree the ability to read "the signs of the times." No good work done in the name of charity or religion appealed to him in vain. In combination with strong mental endowments, Mr. Plumer possessed generous impulses and a chivalrous sense of honor. He was a man whom it was a delight to know. His very presence conveyed the impression of those sterling qualities of manhood which were so strikingly manifested throughout his career, and a genial nature which recognized and appreciated the good in others surrounded him with devoted friends. His countenance and bearing showed him to be what he was—a true and kindly gentleman and an upright, courageous man. In his death the community lost a member of exceptional ability, great reliance and unswerving loyalty. Respected by all, he was loved by many, and those who were admitted to his intimacy felt that in losing him they had lost a part of themselves, and that life could never again be as complete as it had been. The resolutions adopted by the Venango County Bar Association were strongly expressive of the high esteem in which he was held, the following extracts being especially significant :

Samuel Plumer, the seventh in descent from two New England families who landed upon the shores of Massachusetts early in the seventeenth century, the fifth in descent from the first of his race to settle in Pennsylvania, and the third from the pioneer of his name in Venango county, was an American in the truest and broadest sense. He inherited the personal qualities and principles which have made America great, and cultivated that veneration for the Constitution of his country and for the laws made in pursuance thereof without the general prevalence of which American citizenship will be but a name and American greatness can not endure.

Mr. Plumer married Mary Mytinger, of Harrisburg, Pa., who died Aug. 21, 1878. They were the parents of two sons: Lewis Mytinger, an attorney at law and resident of Pittsburgh, Pa., for past forty-two years; and Arnold Gilmore, the latter deceased. In November, 1879, Mr. Plumer married (second) Eleanor Bosler, of Philadelphia. A man of strong domestic tastes and affections, Mr. Plumer passed his happiest hours in the home circle, and all who were ever privileged to be his guests could testify that he was an incomparable host.

JOHN JAMES McLaurin, only child of Peter and Ann (Buchanan) McLaurin, both natives of Scotland, was born on a farm close to the northern border of Glengarry county, Ontario, where his paternal grandfather, John McLaurin, rounded out a century of active pioneer life, coming from the estate in the land of the heather and glen long famous for "St. Fillan's Well" and tenanted by his ancestors since the days when raiding their Lowland neighbors and stealing English cattle were the chief pursuits of the rugged Highlanders. His mother, fifth daughter of the Rev. Dr. George Buchanan, first minister, physician and teacher of Beckwith township, Lanark county, who married Ann Aitkin, cousin of the renowned Thomas Carlyle, and was for forty-five years a leading Presbyterian divine across the seas and in Canada, left a widow with an infant, removed to Vankleek Hill and later to Montreal, schooling her son there and in Toronto. She was a noble Christian woman, finely educated, familiar with the classics, zealous for the right, notably successful in establishing and conducting Sunday schools, a frequent contributor to the religious press and a profound student of the Scriptures, memorizing most of the Bible and such works as Milton's "Paradise Lost," Cowper's "Task," and Pollock's "Course of Time." In a recent interview John J. McLaurin furnished these biographical details:

"It was my luck to clerk in a country store at thirteen, keeping the books and handling the accounts; to teach two rural schools while in my teens, and to begin my literary career as local editor of the *Perth Courier*, a weekly newspaper, scouring the district for pertinent paragraphs and paying subscribers. The petroleum development luring me to Oil creek along in the sixties, contributing items to the *Titusville Herald*, the *Rouseville Bulletin* and the *Oil City Times*, most of them written 'on tower' between midnight and dawn, varied the program of producing seven-dollar crude.

Selling my interests on Cherry run and locating in Canal township, a test well a mile beyond Hannaville pumped the darkest stripe of heavy oil and a morsel of light green for two years. Nov. 23, 1872, started me with the Oil City *Derrick* as its first traveling representative, with the entire petroleum regions as my parish and positive instructions to 'get the news regardless of man or devil.' Adventure and excitement, accident and incident, tragedy and comedy, filled to overflowing four years of what the late John D. Archbold often termed 'the busiest life in oildom,' bringing me into touch with nearly every prolific tract and personal acquaintance with nearly every operator and man of affairs from Richburg to Sistersville. Much of my time was spent traversing the oil fields afoot or on horseback, two thirds of each year through mud practically unfathomable. The 'monthly oil reports,' always a leading feature, demanded careful attention and abundant labor, requiring regular trips to all producing sections in the rushing, hustling world of petroleum. It is a proud reflection to be able to look everybody squarely in the eye and declare that never once was wilful injury done any creature and that no figure or estimate was ever changed or colored a single iota to favor or damage any company, firm, individual or interest. Eighteen 'oil towns' visited in one day and their happenings dished up in print next morning established a record that has stood for four decades. A twelve-month followed in Kentucky and Tennessee, leasing eight hundred thousand acres of land in a score of counties, buying farms and drilling wells for the Boston Oil Company, a strong corporation headed by Frederic Prentice, in his day a big factor in petroleum matters. Few of the people then prominent remain to tell the tales of yore and none of the *Derrick* force at that period is still at the helm. My happy marriage to Elizabeth Cochran, daughter of a well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Franklin, preceded a second term with the *Derrick* at Bradford and some years of editing in Harrisburg, meanwhile issuing several books, two of which—'The Story of Johnstown' and 'Sketches in Crude Oil'—circulated largely in the United States and Europe. Three years of strenuous mining for gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota ended with my return to Franklin, at peace with God and man, nursing no grudges and harboring no vain regrets, to dwell in the delightful home brightened and beautified by the dearest and truest of devoted wives. The closing laps of the

earthly journey find me healthy and alert, sound in wind and limb, wearing my own home-grown teeth and hair, tobogganing down the western slope and facing the sunset unafraid, looking backward cheerfully and forward hopefully, striving to 'do my bit' humbly and worthily, and neither seeking nor shirking fresh duties and responsibilities. Providence permitting, it is my purpose next spring and summer again to tour the American and Canadian oil-diggings, to renew former associations, gain new friends, note time's changes, size up prospective territory and swing around the circle according to Hoyle."

ALFRED SMEDLEY is living retired after a long and honorable career in business activities and official life in Venango county. Born March 29, 1839, on a farm in Willistown township, Chester Co., Pa., five miles east of West Chester, he is of Quaker stock established in Pennsylvania since its settlement by the Penns, with whom his first ancestor in this country, George Smedley, came over in 1682.

George Smedley, a native of Derbyshire, England, came to Pennsylvania as stated in 1682, and bought 250 acres of land from the proprietaries, spending the remainder of his life in Willistown township, Chester county, where he died in March, 1723. In May, 1687, he was married at Friends Meeting in Philadelphia to Sarah Goodwin, widow of John Goodwin and daughter of Thomas Kitchen, of Dublin township, then in Philadelphia county. She died in Willistown March 16, 1709, and they are buried probably in the cemetery of the Middletown meeting-house. Their children were: Thomas, Mary, George, Sarah and Alice.

Thomas Smedley, son of George, above, was born Feb. 15, 1688, in Middletown township, and died in Willistown March 9, 1758. On Aug. 26, 1710, he was married at Middletown Meeting to Sarah Baker, daughter of Joseph and Mary Baker, of Edgemont township, who was born in England in 1682 and died in Willistown March 14, 1765, aged eighty-three years, two months. Mr. and Mrs. Smedley are buried at Middletown meeting-house. They had six children: Francis, John, Sarah, Mary, Thomas and George.

John Smedley, son of Thomas, was born Nov. 22, 1714, and died in August, 1793. In 1772 he married Susanna (Dawson) Cowgill, who was born July 2, 1746, in what was then Radnor township, Philadelphia county, now Delaware county, opposite Christ Church, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Fussell) Dawson, of Smyrna, Del., and died Nov.

29, 1834. The children of this union were: Elizabeth, Thomas, Dawson, Esther, John, Susanna, Benjamin, Mary, Isaac and Jacob.

John Smedley, son of John and Susanna, born Sept. 7, 1777, died Oct. 15, 1825, and is buried in Willistown. On Oct. 23, 1800, he was married at Bradford meeting-house to Rebecca Cope, daughter of Nathan and Amy (Bane) Cope, of East Bradford township, and they reared a large family, viz.: Nathan, Benjamin (who married Jane Williams), Enos (who married Hannah Sharpless), Jeffrey, Nathan (2), Ezra, John, Thomas, Amy C., Ellwood and Chalkley. The mother is buried at West Chester.

John Smedley, son of John and Rebecca, was born Jan. 11, 1814, on the same farm in Willistown township where his son Alfred was born, possibly in the same house. He was a lifelong farmer, the last of the family to occupy that part of the original tract purchased from William Penn by his ancestor George Smedley, and sold the property, buying another farm near West Chester where he spent the rest of his days, his death occurring on that place March 20, 1855. He is buried in Willistown township, Chester county, and his wife, Sarah (Lewis), born Feb. 20, 1812, died Sept. 21, 1887, is interred at Bradford, McKean Co., Pa. They were married April 5, 1838, at Willistown meeting-house, she being a daughter of Elijah and Esther (Massey) Lewis, of Willistown. Children as follows were born of this marriage: Alfred is mentioned below; Elijah, born Jan. 10, 1841, lives in Bradford, Pa.; Thomas D., born Sept. 15, 1842, married Jane Martin; Anna L., born Sept. 3, 1844, died April 12, 1865; Esther M., born Oct. 4, 1846, married Homer O. Brooks; Mary D., born Feb. 22, 1849, married William P. Gordon; John H., born May 21, 1851, died Jan. 7, 1882, and is buried at Bradford, Pa.; Jane G., born Nov. 25, 1853, married Charles P. G. Scott.

Henry Lewis, emigrant ancestor of Mrs. Sarah (Lewis) Smedley, was the son of Evan and Margaret (Philpur) Lewis. He was married Jan. 12, 1670, and in 1680 came to this country from Narberth, Pembrokeshire, Wales, settling in Haverford township (now in Delaware county), in Pennsylvania. His son Henry, born Oct. 26, 1671, was married Oct. 20, 1692, to Mary Taylor, daughter of Robert and Mary. Their son John, born March 23, 1697, married Nov. 6, 1725, Katherine Roberts. Their son Evan Lewis was married Oct. 31, 1770, to Esther Massey, born Dec. 15, 1740, daughter of Thomas (Jr.) and

Sarah (Taylor) Massey, of Willistown; his second marriage, on Dec. 20, 1774, was to Jane Meredith, who was born Jan. 12, 1742, daughter of John and Grace (Williams) Meredith, of Vincent township. Elijah Lewis, son of Evan and Jane (Meredith) Lewis, born May 2, 1778, married Sept. 19, 1799, at Willistown Meeting, Esther Massey, born May 17, 1777, daughter of Thomas and Jane and granddaughter of Thomas and Sarah Massey.

Alfred Smedley lived on the farm until nineteen or twenty years old, meantime acquiring his education in the township schools and getting the ordinary experience of rural training. Then he took a civil engineering course in the Polytechnic School at Philadelphia conducted by Dr. Kennedy, studying there until after he attained his majority, soon after which, in the fall of 1861, he enlisted from that city as a member of Company D, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Capt. George Stroud and Col. James E. Shoonmaker. The regiment, recruited mostly from western Pennsylvania, was attached to the Army of West Virginia under General Averill, and was engaged largely in scout duty, participating in many skirmishes on the border of West Virginia. Mr. Smedley served until December, 1864, receiving his discharge at Philadelphia, and as his mother had in the meantime sold the home farm he rejoined her at West Chester. In January, 1865, he came to Oil City, where he immediately became engaged in the oil fields, drilling wells along the Allegheny river during the next two years. The first one he sank was owned by David Strandford. His association with Lewis & Bonsall (Col. M. Lewis being the senior partner), as manager of their properties, covered the period following until 1873 and enlarged his experience of local oil conditions considerably, their holdings being mostly in Venango county, along the river. Thereafter until 1875 he was engaged by different pipe line companies as engineer, when he became manager of the Atlantic Pipe Lines, and as they were merged into the ownership of the Standard Oil Company, founded in 1878, he continued under the new management with increased duties and higher responsibilities, at the time of his retirement, in 1915, being chief engineer of the National Transit Company, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company. Mr. Smedley also became interested in oil production on his own account, but he has disposed of all his holdings.

Few residents of Oil City have equalled Alfred Smedley in public spirit or definite achievements relating to its social and material

advancement. The excellent water system now in operation there is due largely to his untiring efforts, for he was a member of the water board at the time it was inaugurated and worked zealously for its installation. He served as president of the board for fifteen years, up to the time that the commission form of government was adopted. For two terms he represented the Fourth ward in the common council, and was president of that body during his second term. Mr. Smedley's interest in matters affecting the general welfare began early. While a resident of Bradford, Pa., he served seven years on the school board and was a member of the teachers' committee. His first presidential vote was cast for Lincoln, and he has been loyal to the principles of the Republican party ever since. Fraternally Mr. Smedley is a Mason, affiliated with Edenburg Lodge, No. 550, F. & A. M., Franklin Chapter, No. 211, R. A. M., and Talbot Commandery, No. 43, K. T., of Oil City.

Mr. Smedley had one child by his first marriage, to Ellen McNamara, who was born in November, 1847, in Crawford county, Pa., daughter of George and Jane (Ewing) McNamara, and died aged forty-one years. Their son, George M., born in December, 1874, was prepared for college in the local schools, attending Oil City high school, and was graduated from Cornell University as a civil engineer, being engaged in that capacity by the Standard Oil Company until his death, at the age of twenty-five years. For his second wife Mr. Smedley married Laura Mease, who was born at Colfax, Cal., and they make their home at No. 202 West First street, Oil City. Mrs. Smedley attends the Episcopal Church, Mr. Smedley retaining his membership in the Society of Friends.

Dr. I. W. Mease, grandfather of Mrs. Smedley, was a native of Lebanon, Pa., and died aged seventy-five years at Shippensburg, Clarion county, where he and his wife are buried. He was a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, and practiced medicine at Shippensburg to the end of his long life. His wife, Sarah (Tipton), died at the age of sixty-five years. Their religious association was with the Methodist Church.

Dr. U. G. Mease, only child of Dr. I. W. Mease, was a native of Shippensburg, Clarion Co., Pa., received his higher education at Allegheny College and Jefferson Medical College, and started practice at Plumer, Venango county, where he was located for ten years. For about six years he practiced at Bradford, Pa.; spent a few years in Buffalo, N. Y.; and

then settled at Warren, Pa., where he died in 1899 aged sixty-two years. His wife, Jane (Thompson), had died in 1889, aged forty-nine years, and is interred with him in Forest Lawn cemetery at Buffalo, N. Y. Of their four children, Dr. E. G. Mease lives in Dunkirk, N. Y.; and Laura is the wife of Alfred Smedley, of Oil City, Pa. The parents supported the Methodist Church, and Dr. Mease was a Republican in political sentiment.

Mrs. Jane (Thompson) Mease was a native of England, born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and was ten years old when she accompanied her parents to this country, the family coming first to New Orleans and later settling in California, where both her parents are buried. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson had two children, Jane (Mrs. U. G. Mease) and Elizabeth (Mrs. James F. Brown). They were Episcopalians in religion.

FREDERIC WILLIAM HAYS, attorney, of Oil City, has the distinction of being the oldest member of the Venango county bar in active practice, but his title to honorable mention among its most creditable representatives does not rest upon that fact alone. His life has been practically devoted to his chosen profession, and the special achievements which have enhanced his personal reputation have been in the line of his calling, regarding which he has always held to the highest standards, theoretically and in practice.

Mr. Hays belongs to a family established in Pennsylvania shortly after the close of the Revolution, his ancestors coming from the North of Ireland. They were of Scotch origin, the name in ancient days having been written De La Haye and De La Haya, later Hay and Hays. The Hay coat of arms was, Argent three escutcheon gules, to which was added the badge of office of Hay, Earl of Errol, Lord High Constable of Ireland, which was crossed arms, each hand grasping a short sword and supporting the escutcheon gules, surmounted by a crown.

William Hay, the first ancestor of this line of whom we have definite account, was born in Scotland, but during the religious persecution left that country and settled in County Tyrone, Ireland. He was at the siege of Derry and endured all its trials until relief came, being separated from his family for twenty-two months. His wife and two small children were of the number of those who had been driven to the walls, she having been obliged to walk with her little ones twenty English miles, during which their only food was a little oatmeal which she had secreted on her person. A piece

of horsehide purchased during the siege, for a guinea, just before relief came, was preserved in the family. William Hay's children were Martha (married John Wallace) and James.

James Hays, son of William Hay, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland. He married and had children, among whom was John.

John Hays, son of James, was the great-grandfather of Frederic William Hays. He was born in 1740, and came to America in 1789, arriving at Philadelphia in September of that year. He spent the winter at Maytown, Lancaster Co., Pa., and then purchased a farm at the head of Yellow Breeches creek, on the Walnut Bottom road, in Cumberland county, upon which he resided for ten or twelve years. But he was unable to secure a proper title to the property, and his first payment of five hundred pounds was lost. Later he bought three hundred acres in Path Valley, Franklin county, this State, where some of his posterity still reside. He lived there until his death, in 1814, at the age of seventy-four years. In 1766 John Hays married Eleanor Leach, a native of the North of Ireland, who died in 1826. They were the parents of a large family, viz.: Margaret, born March 16, 1767, married John Gibson, and died Dec. 15, 1823; Frances, born Aug. 24, 1768, married Robert Patterson, and died Jan. 9, 1851; James, born Jan. 4, 1770, married and went to South Carolina; John was the grandfather of Frederic William Hays; Elizabeth, born Nov. 29, 1773, died Dec. 5, 1779; William, born Oct. 17, 1775, resided on the old homestead in Path valley, and died May 1, 1864; Dickey, born March 15, 1777, married Margaret Lindsey; Jennett was born Dec. 12, 1778; Elizabeth (2), born 1782, died Jan. 21, 1872, unmarried; Eleanor, born in 1785, died Feb. 12, 1877, the wife of William Gamble; Sarah, born in 1787, married John Little, and died Dec. 15, 1860; Jane, born July 2, 1789, died April 20, 1864, unmarried.

John Hays, son of John and Eleanor (Leach) Hays, was born Oct. 14, 1771, in County Tyrone, Ireland, and died June 15, 1811, at Somerset, Pa. In December, 1797, he married Martha Wallace, daughter of Capt. Samuel Wallace (who served in the Revolutionary war) and his wife Margaret (Patton) and granddaughter of John and Martha (Hays) Wallace. Mrs. Hays was born April 23, 1773, in Allen township, Cumberland Co., Pa., and survived her husband many years, dying Sept. 25, 1843, at Harrisburg, Pa. They had a family of six children: Samuel Wallace, born Oct. 30, 1799, married Sept. 2, 1834, Mar-

garet Rebecca Moore, and died May 18, 1855; John Lutton, born Dec. 28, 1801, married Sept. 17, 1835, Jane Gibson, and (second) April 14, 1858, Margaret Camblin, and died July 2, 1892; William Patton, born Feb. 3, 1804, married Oct. 27, 1831, Rosanna Keller, and died March 5, 1844; Margaret, born March 27, 1806, died Nov. 20, 1892, unmarried; Eleanor, born Sept. 16, 1807, died in November, 1808; Joseph Caldwell was the father of Frederic W. Hays.

Joseph Caldwell Hays was born July 4, 1810, at Somerset, Pa., and received the principal part of his schooling at Harrisburg Academy. He learned the printer's trade, and was soon in editorial work, he and George Fleming, of Carlisle, being associated in the publication of *The Expositor* at that place. In 1836 he removed to Meadville, Pa., where he made a permanent home, residing there until his death, Nov. 3, 1891. There, too, he followed his favorite profession, in July, 1836, beginning the publication of *The Statesman*. Early in 1841 he became postmaster but was removed after Garrison's death, which occurred later in that year, and he then followed merchandising for several years. But on Jan. 13, 1848, he brought out the first number of the *Crawford Journal*, of which he made a success, himself continuing as its editor until 1864. Meantime he had taken considerable direct part in public affairs, having been elected county treasurer in 1859 and sent as a delegate to the National Republican convention in 1860, when Lincoln was nominated. In 1861 he received his second appointment as postmaster of Meadville, and in 1864 he was made assistant quartermaster, U. S. A., resigning reluctantly after a few months' service, however, having been incapacitated by an accident at Chambersburg. He had previously been aide de camp under Governors Pollock and Curtin, with the rank of colonel. In 1872 he was appointed post office inspector, serving in that capacity until 1883, and during that period visiting all parts of the United States in his round of duties. In 1873, after unearthing a large deficiency in the post office at New Orleans, he was put in charge there as postmaster until a regular appointment could be made. Ever true to his convictions, he had in this case reported the defalcations against the urgent advice of Republicans who feared the effect of exposure of misfeasance of friends in office. The true condition of affairs had been kept obscured for some time, and he was warned not to make the exposure in case his examination disclosed it, but he did his duty regardless of the effect on his party, causing an upheaval which cast opprobrium on the

Republican organization in that section of the South which took years to overcome. It was a trial which few men would have had the courage to face, and it was typical of him that he carried it through. Mr. Hays continued to be a prominent figure in the social and political life of Meadville to the end of his days, and never really severed his connection with the newspaper world, on July 27, 1886, being presented with a gold-headed cane to commemorate the completion of his half-century of work therein. For many years he was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Meadville.

On April 17, 1838, Mr. Hays was married, at Meadville, to Anna Maria Betts, who was born Oct. 13, 1808, and died Feb. 20, 1892. Of the six children born to this union, (1) John Betts, born March 12, 1839, served with distinction in the Civil war, and married, May 26, 1864, Fannie Mead, daughter of Alexander J. Mead and granddaughter of Gen. Daniel Mead, founder of Meadville. They had four children, born as follows: Joseph M., April 16, 1866; Fannie M., Aug. 13, 1868; Anna Louise, July 20, 1870 (died Jan. 13, 1871); Marion M., Feb. 20, 1876. (2) Samuel Wallace, the second in the family, was born Feb. 10, 1841. (3) Frederic William, the third, is mentioned below. (4) Anna Elizabeth, born Dec. 2, 1844, married Oct. 20, 1868, David Compton Dunn, and had children, William Compton (born Dec. 7, 1869), Anna (born May 18, 1871), Ellen (born May 31, 1873). Wallace Hays (born July 10, 1876) and Ruth (born June 27, 1885). (5) Joseph Wallace, born May 22, 1847, died Jan. 13, 1854. (6) Wilson Dick, born Aug. 23, 1849, married, July 7, 1881, Ida M. Stewart, and had one son, Frederick Wallace, born July 24, 1882.

Mrs. Anna Maria (Betts) Hays was descended from Thomas Betts, one of three brothers who settled in Guilford, Conn., coming to this country in 1650. He had a son James, who married Hannah Bouton, and they had two sons, Benjamin and Elias. Of these, Benjamin, who married Rebecca Taylor, died about 1785. He had a son Benjamin, born Nov. 7, 1733, died 1822, who married, Sept. 16, 1762, Abigail Lockwood, their children being Ebenezer, Elias, Eliphalet, Abigail and Dolly. Of these, Ebenezer Betts married, Dec. 6, 1796, Sally Gregory, of Norwalk, Conn., and had children: Caroline, born Jan. 10, 1802; Elizabeth, March 25, 1804; Matilda, Aug. 6, 1806; Anna Maria; Frederick Gregory, Aug. 14, 1812.

Mrs. Sally (Gregory) Betts was descended

from Matthew Gregory, who settled in Norwalk, Conn., and who had a son, Deacon Matthew Gregory, born 1673, died 1777. Deacon Matthew Gregory had sons Ezra, Isaiah and Matthew. Ezra Gregory, born Feb. 21, 1726, married Hannah Betts, and had children born as follows: Abram, Oct. 16, 1752; Ezra, Oct. 17, 1754; Matthew, Aug. 21, 1757 (died June 5, 1848); Hannah, July 27, 1760; Moses, Sept. 13, 1762; Ira, Aug. 12, 1765; Levi, Sept. 7, 1767; Sally, May 21, 1770 (wife of Ebenezer Betts); Benjamin, July 27, 1774.

Frederic William Hays was born March 17, 1842, at Meadville, Crawford Co., Pa. He received an excellent education, taking his collegiate course at Allegheny College, where he was graduated in June, 1861, in the same class with James D. Chadwick, of Franklin, and Rev. B. F. Delo, who became well known and popular in Venango county as a minister of the Methodist Church. During the next few years Mr. Hays did some reportorial and editorial work on his father's paper, and in 1868 became assistant assessor of internal revenue under his brother, John B. Hays, the assessor for the district, devoting some months to the duties of this position at Oil City. Meanwhile he had commenced the study of law with Derrickson & Brawley, of Meadville, and on Sept. 20, 1870, was admitted to practice in the Crawford county courts, receiving admission to the Venango county bar in October of the same year. On April 10, 1871, he located at Oil City, where he has been in active practice ever since. Some of his early contemporaries at the Venango county bar were John Galbraith, Isaac Ash, William McNair, David Sterritt, Henry A. Converse, John B. McAllister and Hugh C. Graham, and the district (then consisting of Venango and Mercer counties) was presided over by Judge Trunkey. The first case which Mr. Hays had involved the ownership of a pig worth three dollars, the litigants being Thomas McCash, plaintiff, whose lawyer was James Dorworth, another young attorney, and Alexander Cameron, whose cause was handled by Mr. Hays. Many witnesses gave testimony before the Squire, the peculiarities of that pig being described with wonderful minuteness, and the deciding testimony was the substantiation of a few freckles on the pig's back. Judgment was accorded the plaintiff. Such was the modest beginning of a career devoted to useful and serious legal labors. In 1871 Mr. Hays was commissioned notary public, serving as such until he went to the legislature. In 1874 he became city solicitor, filling the position for ten years, during part of which time

the city was governed under the charter as rewritten by him. Oil City had received its first charter in 1871, and this in 1872 was redrawn by Mr. Hays, by action of the legislature becoming a new charter, which served its purpose until 1881, when the general law regulating cities of the third class superseded it. In this connection it is interesting to note that Mr. Hays has continued to be a close student of the law all his life, and he was yet in the early part of his legal career when he compiled a digest of the various acts of the legislature affecting cities of the third class, a work of value and convenient for reference which has received copious commendation at the hands of many leading jurists.

Mr. Hays has served two terms in the State legislature, having been first elected in 1888 and reelected in 1890, on the Republican ticket. His colleague during the first session was Oliver P. Morrow, of Rockland, and during the second session Henry James, of Franklin. It is noteworthy that the first resolution introduced in the legislature looking to the submittal of a prohibition amendment was presented during his first session, and his own vote was cast for it; and previous to a special election to pass on such amendment his voice was heard in earnest advocacy of its acceptance. It was rejected, but he takes pride in the fact that Oil City even then cast a majority vote of over two hundred in its favor. In the second session Mr. Hays served as chairman of the Reapportionment committee, to reapportion House members, the bill which the committee presented becoming a law, while one affecting the senators was defeated in the Senate. Mr. Hays was also one of the twenty chosen as a steering committee, whose activities resulted in more systematic and harmonious legislative action by his party.

When he assumed the duties of legislator Mr. Hays formed a legal partnership with John L. Mattox which lasted five years, but generally he has preferred to practice alone. He has served a number of times in the city council, was president of that body in 1910 and 1911, and was city solicitor for two years, 1914 and 1915. While he was serving in the latter capacity the council passed an ordinance compelling all companies using low tension wires to place them in a conduit which had been laid by the Petroleum Telephone Company. One company refused upon the ground that the city could not compel them to make such use of a private conduit, and was sustained in the court of Common Pleas, but the decision was reversed in the Superior court and the ordinance

upheld. In his private practice Mr. Hays has been equally courageous in upholding the rights of his clients against adverse decisions in the lower courts whenever he felt that an honest interpretation of the law would justify his stand.

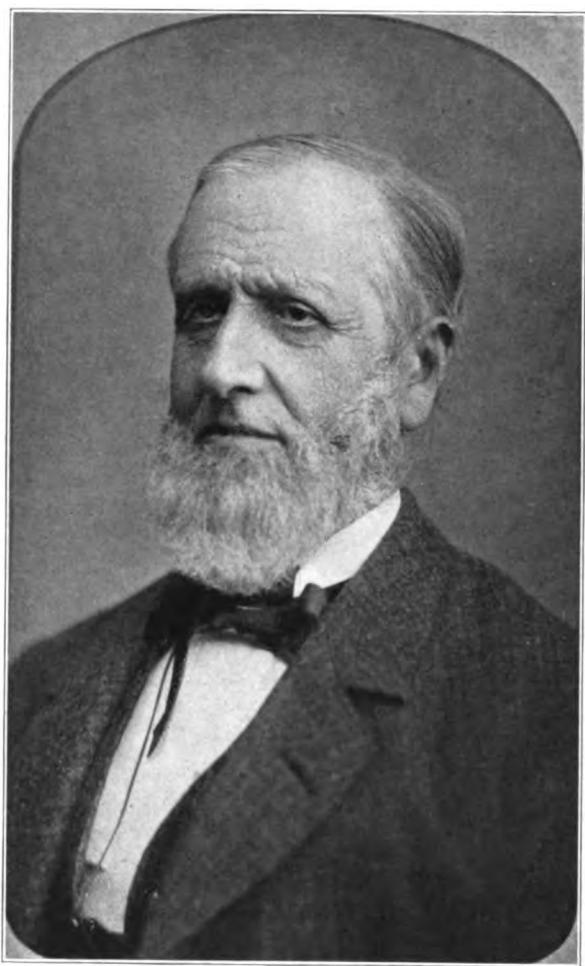
Arriving at an early realization of the value to developing sections of well conducted building and loan associations, encouraging the ownership of property and the construction of substantial homes, Mr. Hays devoted considerable time to the study of their legal problems and to the promotion of such enterprises in his own community. He has been solicitor of local organizations of that kind since 1872, and helped to organize seven different associations, making it possible for hundreds of people of moderate means in Oil City to own their own homes and creating a thrifty class which raises the standards of living and citizenship appreciably. He is a stockholder in the Imperial Realty Company. For fifteen years he has been attorney for the Oil City Trust Company. Though he has made some good local investments Mr. Hays has found his material success principally through professional channels. His earlier investments, in oil properties and stocks, were not particularly fortunate, though they proved profitable eventually, and his subsequent financial ventures have been in fields where there is less fluctuation in values and more satisfaction to the investor not actively associated with operations.

Like his father, Mr. Hays has been a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church, having been an elder of the First Church of that denomination at Oil City since June 3, 1877. For forty-seven years he has been an active worker in the Sunday school, having taught a class throughout that period except for the two years that he served as superintendent. During all this time Mr. Hays has cooperated heartily in all church enterprises, supporting them with his means and giving freely of his own time and labor, and he has also participated in the wider work of the denomination, having served several times in the Erie Presbytery, from which he was twice sent to the Synod of Pennsylvania. He has also represented the Presbytery twice in the general assembly, at Springfield, Ill., in 1882, and at Los Angeles, Cal., in 1903. Fraternally he is a Scottish Rite Mason, affiliated with Petrolia Lodge, F. & A. M., of Oil City, the chapter, Calvert Commandery, K. T., and the Lodge of Perfection. He has served as a director of the Oil City Y. M. C. A.

On June 12, 1873, Mr. Hays married Eliza-

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A.P. Whitaker.

beth Ida Lashells, of Meadville, Pa., who was born Nov. 26, 1850, daughter of George Edward and Eliza (Baskin) Lashells, and sister of Dr. Theodore B. Lashells, well known throughout northwestern Pennsylvania. Of their two children, the eldest, Bessie, born June 13, 1875, died March 19, 1881. John Lashells, born May 24, 1878, received his education in Pennsylvania, graduating from Washington and Jefferson College in 1901. He was admitted to the bar in 1903, and for two years thereafter practiced with his father. But his health made a change of climate advisable, and he removed West, in 1906 becoming legal adviser and real estate manager for the Barnsdale Oil Company, of Bartlesville, Okla., to which position he has since applied most of his energies, being now also assistant secretary and treasurer of that corporation, one of the leading producers in the West. On Dec. 21, 1906, John L. Hays married Maude Walker, of Bartlesville, and they have two children, Frederic Walker (born Jan. 28, 1908) and Catherine Elizabeth (born July 8, 1915).

ALBERT PAWLING WHITAKER was born in Troy, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1817, and died in Franklin, Pa., Feb. 26, 1897. He was a son of John and Abigail (Sanford) Whitaker, of Chatham, Conn., and grandson of Ephraham Whitaker, of Troy, N. Y., a naval officer of the Revolutionary war. After a primary education in the common schools Albert went to academies in New Jersey and New York City, and subsequently graduated at Marion College, Missouri. In 1838 he came to Utica, Venango county, and clerked for his uncle, A. W. Raymond. In 1842 he removed to Meadville, and became associated with Samuel W. Magill in the *Democratic Republican*. In 1844 he resumed his former duties at Utica.

Mr. Whitaker's connection with newspaper work was resumed in 1849. On Jan. 10th of that year, having purchased the old material of the Democratic paper at Franklin, he issued the first number of the *Venango Spectator* (which suspended publication in 1917), and with slight exception was its editor and publisher ever after until his death, his career in that capacity thus covering a period of more than forty-eight years.

In politics Mr. Whitaker was always an active Democrat. He was appointed an inspector of customs in Philadelphia in 1856 under President Buchanan's administration, having previously held a clerkship in the surveyor general's office in 1852, and he resigned from the inspector's place to resume charge of the

*Spectator* in 1860. He was elected burgess of Franklin in 1852 and 1853; was a school director in 1868 and for the two succeeding terms; was clerk to the county commissioners, and at times he was the choice of his party for county offices.

As a writer Mr. Whitaker held a recognized place among those in the first rank of his profession. His mental eye had keen and swift perception of all the points of his subject. Forming clear ideas, he expressed them with accuracy, force and a grace that came from a fine taste and a well cultivated fancy. There was a purity, conciseness and pungency in his literary style charming to the lover of good English. No forced fancy, no bungled metaphors, no cheap tricks of verbosity, played any part in his literary products. He was always a student, expanding and strengthening his mind. Thus it was that, after a service far beyond the period of life when most men have dropped from the active list, his pen still retained its cunning and its point. He was not only the Nestor of the press in this part of the State, but up to the last he could bend the bow of Ulysses. In his persistent process of education Mr. Whitaker not only became an all-round scholar in his native tongue, but besides acquainted himself with the French language and literature. He was also an expert fisher and woodsman. His inherent poetical faculty placed him in touch with the masters, from Shakespeare to Tennyson, and from Tennyson to Halleck. A retentive memory gave him wonderful command of their treasures. Hence it was that while he was a master of sarcasm and invective, he was none the less at home in the realm of the affections and of the ideal. His friends knew Mr. Whitaker as an adept in the range of conversation. The général public were aware of his peculiar gift of pungent wit and ready repartee. Without changing his facial expression he could crush a conceit with a droll sentence or skewer a humbug on a point of irony. He was never in a hurry or a flurry, and yet never hung fire. Beneath the surface of his wit and invective, however, was a tender and sensitive nature, a generous, sympathetic heart, attuned to "the still, sad music of humanity."

On July 31, 1845, Mr. Whitaker was married in Sandy Creek township, Venango county, to Mary Simcox, a native of that township, born Oct. 28, 1824, daughter of William and Jane (Marshall) Simcox. She died May 19, 1911, the mother of the following children: John Henry, born Nov. 11, 1846, married April 25, 1871, Maud Conser,

and died Nov. 15, 1885; Jane Marshall, born April 19, 1848, married George W. Plumer, of Franklin, Pa., now of Cleveland, Ohio; Ann Eliza, born Aug. 5, 1849, was married Oct. 7, 1869, to Matthew H. Mercer, and lives at Yonkers, N. Y.; William Simcox, born May 11, 1851, was married Nov. 28, 1878, to Mrs. Sarah Adams Beatty, and died in November, 1907; Mary, born Jan. 5, 1853, was married May 14, 1878, to Rev. Marcus Alden Tolman; Emma, born Oct. 14, 1855, was married Dec. 18, 1878, to John V. Stephenson; Frances Adelaide, born Oct. 12, 1857, was married Sept. 2, 1891, to Joseph A. Hughston; Albert P., born Dec. 8, 1863, died Dec. 22, 1874; Clara Eaton, born Feb. 3, 1867, was married Oct. 29, 1890, to Elmer E. Lyon.

JAMES BURTON CRAWFORD has filled a prominent position in the business circles of Oil City, winning and holding an important place on the strength of his own merits and improvements. Mr. Crawford belongs to a family whose members have been strong workers among the forces for advancement in Venango county from the time of its formation, industrious, capable and self-reliant in material affairs, and intelligent in their support of desirable social standards and institutions. The family was founded in Venango county by his great-grandfather, John Crawford, whose posterity have stood high among the influential residents of this section, James B. Crawford being a typical representative of the name.

John Crawford, born Nov. 1, 1748, died Feb. 18, 1812. He was one of the first settlers in Greene county, Pa., moving thence to Butler county and eventually to what is now Venango county, where in 1797 he made a permanent settlement in Allegheny township (then comprising most of the county), on the Allegheny river below Emlenton. The tract of four hundred acres which he had entered as his homestead extended on the west into Butler county, on the east into Armstrong county, lying in what is now the extreme southern portion of Venango. The first year, assisted by several of his sons, he made a small clearing and planted a crop on what afterward became the homestead farm, two miles south of Emlenton (at what was later the home of William T. Crawford), and the following year brought most of his family. Some of the married sons remained for a time in Greene county, but eventually all except Alexander secured homes in the vicinity of the paternal residence, William locating on the farm near Emlenton, in

Scrubgrass township, owned by his son David M.; Samuel on the west end of the homestead, in Butler county; Ebenezer, on the east end; David and George, one mile east of Six Points, Butler county; John and James, the same distance south of that village, their property being now the Fowler and Crawford farms; Robert J. living first on the homestead, but afterward in Richland township, Clarion county. Alexander, who was a physician, removed to Washington county, where he lived and died. The brothers George, David and John later settled in Richland county, Ohio.

John Crawford married Isabel Parker, who was born Aug. 21, 1756, and survived him, passing away Dec. 30, 1839. They were the parents of twelve children, namely: William, who married Nancy Reed; James, who married Abigail Coulter; John, who married Margaret Reed; George, who married Mary Coulter; David, who married Lucy Applegate; Alexander; Arthur; Samuel, who married Fanny Hill; Ebenezer; Mary Parker, Mrs. Turner; Rebecca; and Robert Jennings, who married Margaret Hemphill. The family were Presbyterians, and have been represented in the session of Scrubgrass Presbyterian Church since its organization. John Crawford, the father, helped to choose the site and build the first schoolhouse at Lowe cemetery, a half mile south of Crawford Corners. He is buried in that cemetery.

Ebenezer Crawford, son of John and Isabel (Parker) Crawford, born March 14, 1789, died Jan. 31, 1859, and is buried in Lowe cemetery. Farming was his life occupation, and he followed it upon an extensive scale, acquiring the east half of his father's large property, as previously noted. In 1814 he married Janet Grant, daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Johnson) Grant, natives of Scotland, who lived for some time in Lancaster, Pa., Mr. Grant building and occupying the first stone house erected at that place. Later he removed to Butler county, this State, and eventually to Armstrong county, where he died not long afterward, in 1833. His wife had passed away some time previously. Mr. and Mrs. Ebenezer Crawford had the following family: Alexander B., who made his home in Emlenton, married Margaret Anderson; John Parker, born Oct. 12, 1816, lived in Scrubgrass township; Eliza died in infancy; Isabel married Harvey Gibson, of Martinsburg, Butler county; Ebenezer is mentioned below; Matilda J. married Aaron Harvey Crawford, of Emlenton; William R., at one time sheriff of Venango county, married Jane

Kerr; Robert J. died unmarried; Elizabeth J. died in infancy; Samuel W. married Catherine Jane Truby, of Emlenton; Elihu C. was killed by accident in a coal mine when eighteen years old; Emmaline Louther married George W. Livingstone, of Starke, Fla.; Aaron Harvey, of Emlenton, married Martha J. Ross. Five of the eight sons, John P., Ebenezer, William R., Robert J. and Samuel W., went to California in 1850, making the tedious journey overland. All returned safely, pursued trades, became merchants and were large owners of oil and gas lands. The mother of this family died in July, 1877, aged eighty-nine years.

Ebenezer Crawford, one of the eight sons of Ebenezer and Janet (Grant) Crawford, was born Aug. 26, 1821, at the home near Emlenton, and was reared in that vicinity. On his return from California in 1850 he located at Emlenton and established himself in the foundry business, becoming one of the successful business men of his day. Later he was extensively interested in the production of oil and gas, owning and operating valuable holdings at Parkers Landing and in the Bradford field, as well as at Emlenton, and he was one of that progressive group of local capitalists who founded the Oil City Fuel Supply Company, the forerunner of the present United Natural Gas Company of Oil City. With this important concern he and his son James B. Crawford were connected in turn until the latter's resignation from the presidency in January, 1917, and Ebenezer Crawford continued his association therewith in connection with the operation of his oil and gas properties until his death, which occurred at Emlenton Aug. 26, 1897. He was a man of consummate executive ability and keen financial understanding, managing his affairs with excellent judgment and marked success.

In 1848 Ebenezer Crawford married Elizabeth Wilson, who was born June 30, 1833, at Freeport, Pa., and died in Buffalo, N. Y., June 19, 1906. They were the parents of five sons and three daughters, six reaching maturity: Clara M., deceased, married M. C. Treat, of Pasadena, Cal.; Emma J. married L. E. Mallory, of Bradford, Pa.; James Burton is mentioned below; George W. is a resident of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Frederick W., of Columbus, Ohio; Carroll E. died June 2, 1917.

James Burton Crawford was born Oct. 5, 1855, at Emlenton, Venango Co., Pa. He prepared for practical business at the Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and was barely of age when he entered the oil business, in 1876, his first operations being at

Emlenton, Pa. Subsequently he was engaged in oil operations in the Bradford field, and in November, 1883, located at Oil City, Pa., where his interests have been centered, principally in the oil and gas business. He first became associated with the gas companies as accountant, later becoming president and general manager of the United Natural Gas Company and the Pennsylvania Gas Company (underlying companies of the National Fuel Gas Company of New Jersey), keeping fully up to the requirements of the steadily increasing business. He remained at the head of the above companies until Jan. 1, 1917, when he resigned after a successful career, both as regards his personal achievements and his efforts in behalf of the above mentioned companies.

Though not as active as formerly in business operations Mr. Crawford still retains a number of important connections and attends to the details of their management. He is interested in oil and gas production, and is a director of the Ohio Fuel Supply Company, Ohio Fuel Oil Company, Pennsylvania Fuel Supply Company, Granville Fuel & Light Company, and the Oil City National Bank. He is well known in numerous associations besides those of a business nature, taking a broad interest in all the phases of social life in the community, particularly those designed to provide wholesome opportunities for recreation and improvement. He is a trustee of the Y. M. C. A. and the First Presbyterian Church, a director of the Wanango Country Club, a member of the Venango Club and Oil City Boat Club, and a Mason in fraternal affiliation, holding membership in Petrolia Lodge, No. 363, F. & A. M.; Oil City Chapter No. 236, R. A. M.; Talbot Commandery No. 43, K. T.; Venango Lodge of Perfection; Pittsburgh Consistory and Syria Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Crawford married Nellie Comstock, of Emlenton, Pa., who died Jan. 7, 1914, the mother of four children: Edith, born Aug. 20, 1881; Robert A., born June 14, 1885; Helen, born Aug. 23, 1887; and Ronald B., born Oct. 30, 1888. On Jan. 15, 1917, Mr. Crawford married Jeannette Sibley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Henry Sibley, of Franklin, Pa. She died Nov. 30, 1918.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS RIDER (deceased) was in his day a factor of definite value in the industrial activities of Franklin, having been one of the largest employers of labor there at the height of his business career. His

enterprise and ability to make the most of the opportunities at hand were equalled by few of his contemporaries, and his establishment was a busy center of trade and a clearing house for many commodities which the inhabitants of the locality were glad to exchange in order to procure the necessities which they could not produce. Quick to see the promise in any enterprise, and diligent in the prosecution of all his undertakings, Mr. Rider made a success in a field which broadened steadily under his judicious management and built up a business which in volume and importance compared favorably with the most ambitious in this territory.

Mr. Rider was a native of New York State, born April 27, 1846, at Enfield Corners, near Elmira, son of H. Nelson and Sarah Rider. He received a public school education at Elmira, and spent his early life in the vicinity of his birthplace, in 1869 removing to Franklin, Pa., where he soon embarked in the tin and hardware business. The establishment was carried on for a short time in its early days by the firm of Rider & Hazeltine, but Mr. Rider acquired all the interest and thereafter conducted the business on his own account, so that the large proportions it attained within a few years may be attributed entirely to his efforts. He came at an auspicious period, when the activities in the oil fields brought about an access of population and local prosperity which assured a large trade to merchants enterprising enough to improve the occasion. The growth of his business was a typical story of the times. Commencing in 1870 with five men and three wagons, within a decade he was employing about a hundred people and forty wagons, and the volume of trade had increased from twenty-five thousand dollars annually to about half a million. He manufactured plain tin and sheet iron ware and dealt wholesale in pressed tinware, stoves, brooms and papermakers' stock, having a large jobbing trade in tinware, stoves, kitchen furniture and similar goods, in that department alone employing two traveling salesmen, who covered a large territory in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. His tin shop was equipped with the most up-to-date facilities in the way of machinery and other appliances, and kept about twenty women busy constantly filling orders from various parts of the valley. It was no unusual thing for him to have five hundred stoves in stock, with a large variety of styles. The business was housed in a commodious building at the corner of Eighth and Liberty streets, Franklin, with spacious store and sales

rooms, and he handled a large assortment of glass and other household wares, the extensive patronage to which he catered enabling him to keep a comprehensive stock, much more ample and varied than is ordinarily found in a place of the size and consequently affording his customers more satisfactory shopping conveniences. Like many merchants of the day, he "paid the highest market price in cash for hides, pelts" and other articles which were brought in for trade, and in this connection he came to buy old metals, rope, etc., as well as rags for papermakers, his rag trade in 1877 amounting to eight hundred tons and his iron trade to fifteen hundred tons. In fact, he became the most extensive buyer and shipper of rags and other junk in western Pennsylvania, having large quantities brought in by his wagons and hundreds of tons forwarded to him by the various railroads. He employed from twenty-five to fifty women, as the business required, sorting the rags into the various grades, over twenty different kinds being sent to mills in various parts of the country.

Mr. Rider did not escape the attractions of the oil fields, in which he made investments of considerable value, and for a number of years he was a member of the Oil Exchange. He also embarked in the hotel business, building the "Rider Hotel" at Cambridge Springs, Pa., which he conducted successfully. With all his material interests he found time for public affairs and matters vital to the general welfare, serving his fellow citizens in Franklin as a member of the city council, to which he was elected on the Republican ticket, and acting as quartermaster of the 16th Regiment, Pennsylvania National Guard. His death occurred at Franklin Sept. 13, 1905.

Mr. Rider had one son by his first marriage, William Douglas, Jr. On July 16, 1867, he married (second) Louisa Helen Nock, who survives him. To this union were born four children, namely: (1) John Charles, born May 30, 1873, is living at Cambridge Springs, Pa. (2) H. Nelson, born June 9, 1875, is now residing at Pittsburgh, where he is engaged in the real estate business. In February, 1904, he married Anna Teglar, of Erie, Pa., and they have one son, Charles Nelson, born March 30, 1905. (3) Stewart McKee, born Feb. 18, 1878, at Franklin, received his education there in the grammar and high schools and became an accountant for the National Transit Company. He is now engaged in the brokerage business at Cleveland, Ohio. During the Spanish-American war he was in the United States Signal Service and was in active duty in Porto

Rico. He married May Stainbrook, daughter of M. A. Stainbrook, of Saegerstown, Crawford Co., Pa., and they have three children, born as follows: Helen Elizabeth, March 16, 1902; William Douglas, Jan. 3, 1904; Catharine May, March 30, 1905. (4) Roscoe Conklin, born Oct. 28, 1881, is engaged in the cold storage business at Cambridge Springs in company with his eldest brother, John C., under the name of Rider Brothers. They are wholesale dealers in produce. He married Isabel Arrott, and they have two children, Roscoe Conklin (born June 26, 1905), and James A. (born Dec. 4, 1914).

Mrs. Rider resides in Franklin, where her interests are centered. She owns valuable real estate at Ninth and Liberty streets which has been in her family for over one hundred years, having come into her possession through her connection with the Ridgways, her maternal ancestors. She was the only child of Henry and Susan (Ridgway) Nock, and granddaughter of Edward Nock, who came to Franklin in 1843 and built the first rolling mill there. He married Dinah Bates, and their children were: Henry, Harriet, Clementine, Isaiah, Edward and Susan. Of these, Henry Nock married, in June, 1845, Susan Ridgway, daughter of John and Susanna (Titus) Ridgway and descendant of Richard Ridgway, the founder of the family in America.

Richard Ridgway was a native of Berkshire, England, where the name had been prominent for many generations. His great-grandfather, Thomas Ridgway, is said to have been held in high favor by both Queen Elizabeth and King James I., and to have been the intimate friend and companion of Robert Cecil, the son of Lord Burleigh, who became the first Earl of Salisbury and prime minister to both the sovereigns mentioned. It is said that at the baptism of Thomas Ridgway's eldest son his friend Robert Cecil was godfather, and gave the child his own name, Robert.

Shortly after his first marriage Richard Ridgway, with his wife and eldest child, left Wallingford, Berkshire, and sailed across the Atlantic in the ship "Jacob and Mary" of London, arriving in the Delaware river in September, 1679. On the 12th of that month he was in Burlington, but after a short stay there he removed to Crewcorn, in what is now Falls township, Bucks Co., Pa., where on April 12, 1680, he signed the petition to the governor to suppress the sale of "brandy and strong liquors to ye Indians." On May 3, 1686, the governor's council recommended him as a "fit person for ye Keeping an Ordinary," and his pe-

tition for a license was therefore granted. On Oct. 7, 1690, he bought six hundred acres in Maidenhead, west of the Province line, and running from the Great Meadows at Port Mercer northward for about a mile. Here he lived several years. On Feb. 7, 1697, he purchased from John Hollingshead a farm in Springfield township, Burlington Co., N. J., where he afterward resided, giving an acre of this property to the Society of Friends for a meetinghouse and burying ground. The original building has disappeared, but the acre is still used for the purpose intended. On Aug. 8, 1700, he was appointed a judge or justice of Burlington county, holding the office until April, 1720. His first marriage, which took place in England, was to Elizabeth Chamberlayne, of Wiltshire, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Chamberlayne, and she accompanied him to this country, dying at Crewcorn March 31, 1692. Before Feb. 1, 1693-94, he married (second) Abigail Stockton, daughter of Richard and Abigail Stockton. This marriage "not being to Friends order," the Chesterfield Monthly Meeting appointed Mahlon Stacy and Robert Wilson to inquire and remonstrate with Richard and Abigail, and the result was that, April 25, 1694, the two sent a paper to the Monthly Meeting "condemning their outgoing in marriage." From this it would seem that they had been married by a justice of the peace. Richard Ridgway died between Sept. 21, 1722, and April 5, 1723. Abigail survived him only a few years, dying between March 8 and Dec. 19, 1726. By his first marriage there were seven children: Thomas, born July 27, 1677, died Aug. 24, 1724; married 1699 Ann Pharo, and (second) Nov. 6, 1712, Elizabeth Andrews. Richard, born Aug. 27, 1680, died between Feb. 12, 1718-19, and April 4, 1719; he married Oct. 9, 1702, Mary Willits, and (second) Nov. 11, 1714, Mary (Stockton), daughter of Richard and Abigail Stockton; it was her third marriage, her first husband having been Thomas Shinn, her second Silas Crispin. Elizabeth, born April 17, 1682, married Sept. 15, 1704, Richard Willits (brother of Mary, above). William died in infancy. Sarah died in infancy. Josiah was the next in the line we are tracing. Joseph died in infancy. By the second marriage there were also seven: Job married Dec. 7, 1719, Rebecca Butcher, and died in 1761. Abigail married, in 1717, Henry Clothier. John was next in the family. Mary married Dec. 11, 1719, John Ballinger. Jane married, in 1721, Isaac Antrim. Sarah was mentioned in her mother's will as being lame. Joseph, who died in 1760, married Nov.

11, 1727, Sarah Butcher, and (second) Feb. 15, 1737-38, Hannah Allen.

Josiah Ridgway, son of Richard above, was born Sept. 6, 1690, in Crewcorn, Bucks Co., Pa. In 1717 he was constable of Springfield township, Burlington Co., N. J. He married Sarah Ridgway, and their children were: Lott, born Aug. 9, 1718, died Dec. 30, 1784; in December, 1750, he married Susanna Peat. Josiah married, Oct. 12, 1736, Rachel Brown. Noah is mentioned below.

Noah Ridgway was born, about 1730 in Springfield township, Burlington Co., N. J., and in 1793 was living in Westland, Pa. He and his wife Rebecca had two children, Noah and Ann, the latter baptized Oct. 30, 1764.

Noah Ridgway (2), son of Noah and Rebecca Ridgway, was born in Springfield township, Burlington Co., N. J. His wife's name is unknown.

John Ridgway, son of Noah Ridgway (2), was born in 1785 in Mount Holly, Burlington Co., N. J., and died Jan. 9, 1861, in Franklin, Pa. He was a millwright and boatbuilder. He was originally a Friend, but later joined the Presbyterian Church. In 1810 or 1811 he married Susanna Titus, who was born in 1793, daughter of Peter and Jean Titus, and died Sept. 20, 1854. They had a family of six children, namely: Samuel, born Aug. 26, 1812, died Aug. 22, 1903; he married Isabella Curry, of Oil Creek, Pa., and had children, John, Jane, Susan, Wilson and Stanton. Peter Titus, born Sept. 4, 1814, died Sept. 20, 1877; he married Maria Bunce, of Franklin, Pa., and had children, Almena, Frederick and Laura. Harriet, born April 1, 1817, died July 21, 1894, unmarried. Thomas, born in 1820, died 1885. Susan, born Nov. 29, 1823, died Jan. 1, 1902; she married, in June, 1845, Henry Nock. John, born in 1826, died in 1843.

FREDERICK S. RICH, late of Oil City, was in social and business connections one of its most prominent residents. As president of the Crude Oil Company, he was associated with a number of the leading figures in the oil industry in the Pennsylvania and West Virginia fields and his own activities had taken him over a large part of the territory in this section of the country.

Mr. Rich was of old New England and Revolutionary stock, being a great-grandson of Barzilla Rich, of Connecticut, who married Esther Loveland, daughter of Solomon Loveland, a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Russell Rich, son of Barzilla and Esther (Loveland) Rich, was born in October, 1800,

in Pompey, Onondaga Co., N. Y., and died about 1846 in St. Johns, Welland County, Ontario, Canada. In 1832 he married Susannah Street, who died in 1847 at Amherst, Portage Co., Wisconsin.

John Street Rich, son of Russell and Susannah (Street) Rich, was born April 9, 1837, at St. Johns, Ontario. He had an adventurous disposition, for though only a boy at the time of the gold excitement on the Pacific coast, he went out there about 1849 and remained several years. He returned to Canada about 1854 and was married at St. Catherines, Ontario, on Aug. 8, 1860, to Hannah Robertson.

Mrs. Hannah (Robertson) Rich, wife of John S. Rich, was born Oct. 31, 1835, in Westminster, Ontario. Her parents were Alexander and Matilda (Simons) Robertson, the former born Feb. 18, 1798, in Foxbar, Glasgow, Scotland, the latter Aug. 26, 1808, in Flamboro, Ontario. They died at Goderich, Ontario, Mr. Robertson Feb. 18, 1855, his wife Aug. 1, 1855.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Rich were the parents of the following children: Edith, wife of Wesley Kinnear, of Pittsburgh; Esther, wife of J. E. Winans, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Alexander, of Dawes, W. Va.; and Frederick S., late of Oil City.

In 1867 John S. Rich came to Oil City, where he spent the remainder of his life in oil operations as one of the active figures on the Oil Exchange and also as a producer. He acquired considerable property in this region, living on a farm near the present site of the Grandview Sanitarium, and not long before his death buying a property, part of the Adam Cope farm, now known as Rich Hill. Here he had a residence erected, which he never lived to occupy, dying Nov. 13, 1879, in Oil City, at the home of his friend, Judson Trax. He is buried in the family lot in Grove Hill cemetery. Mr. Rich was a Methodist, being one of the founders of Trinity M. E. Church, Oil City.

Frederick S. Rich was born Feb. 24, 1864, at St. Catherines, Ontario, and with his parents came to Oil City about 1867. The greater part of his life was spent there, although he was sent back to Ontario to school, attending Upper Canada College at Toronto. He later completed his education at Allegheny College, Meadville. Meantime, when he was a boy of fifteen, his father died, and he early showed the good judgment and wisdom which characterized his active business career by the practical way in which he set about to fit him-

self for his association with the oil industry. His first occupation was as a clerk in the Oil Exchange for a few years. Being anxious to familiarize himself with the field work, he acquired a practical knowledge of it by visiting various leases. In this manner he secured his information on the various points which constitute an oil man's training, including tool dressing and drilling, at first hand. In 1884 he was employed by the South Penn Oil Company in Washington county, Pa., near Washington, and himself leased land in Washington county. In 1885 the South Penn Oil Company sent him to Ohio for a few months.

On July 14, 1887, Mr. Rich married Madeleine Bureau Acheson, at Washington, Pa. She survives him with their three children, John S., Madeleine A. and James A. R.

David Acheson, grandfather of Mrs. Fred S. Rich, was born in County Armagh, Ireland, in 1770 and came to this country in 1788. He settled in southwestern Pennsylvania and became prominent in that section of the State. In 1791 he entered into a contract with the government to furnish Indian supplies, cavalry and pack horses for use in the army. Later he studied law, and he was a leading man of his day, being Republican representative to the State Assembly from Washington county for three terms. At this time the State and national capitals were both located at Philadelphia, and Mr. Acheson became well acquainted with President George Washington and many other leading characters of the time. Mr. Acheson died in 1851, and he and his wife are buried at Washington, Pennsylvania.

Charles Louis Valcaulon Bureau, Mrs. Rich's maternal grandfather, was born at Gallipolis, Ohio, and was educated for the medical profession, attending college at Washington, Pa. He returned to Gallipolis and practiced medicine until the time of his death, he and wife, Margaret (Hughes), being buried in Gallipolis. His father, John Peter Roman Bureau, a silk merchant of Rheims, France, was one of two hundred colonists who came to this country after the French Revolution. He was present at the overthrow of the Bastille and assisted in demolishing this world-famous edifice. Mr. Bureau and his fellow countrymen settled in Ohio, founding the town of Gallipolis. His daughter, Madeleine Romaine, married Dr. Francis Julius LaMoyné, who had the first crematory in the United States.

James C. Acheson, father of Mrs. Rich, was

born at Washington, Pa., Feb. 13, 1826, and spent most of his life there. He was educated in the public schools and Washington and Jefferson College, where he was a classmate of the late James G. Blaine. In 1863 he married Mary Bureau, who was born May 25, 1842, at Gallipolis, Ohio, and died Sept. 7, 1917, at Washington, Pa. Mr. Acheson was an elder in the Presbyterian Church and superintendent of the Sunday school. He died April 20, 1895, and is buried in Washington cemetery.

At the time of Mr. Acheson's death, Mr. Rich and his family were living in Washington, having moved there from Oil City in 1893. Shortly after his death they moved to Parkersburg, W. Va., and remained there until 1899. After moving to West Virginia Mr. Rich leased land in Ritchie and Gilmer counties for the purpose of drilling for oil, and his knowledge of the oil business attracted the favorable attention of the late T. N. Barnsdall, with the result that Mr. Rich became associated with him for a number of years. On Sept. 21, 1899, the Crude Oil Company was incorporated at Wheeling, W. Va., Mr. Rich being elected president of the organization. His original partners in the enterprise were his brother, A. R. Rich, H. H. Hilton, W. I. Goble, and F. H. Park. They bought a portion of Mr. Barnsdall's property in West Virginia, held by what was known as the Southern Oil Company, and entered upon the production of crude oil on a large scale, acquiring extensive holdings in Lewis, Harrison, and Gilmer counties, W. Va.; Washington county, Pa.; and later in Oklahoma and Kansas. Mr. Rich remained at the head of this concern, which was his principal interest from the time of the formation of the company until his death. In 1899, his family returned to Washington, Pa., and in 1904 to Oil City, where they have lived ever since.

At the time of the incorporation of the Crude Oil Company, two offices were established, a field office at Weston, W. Va., and a business office at Wheeling. While the location of the field office has never been changed, the business office was moved to Oil City in 1903, to Pittsburgh in 1911, and, through the influence of Mr. Rich, again in 1913 to Oil City, where it is located at the present time. On June 14, 1918, Mr. Rich left Oil City to make an inspection of the company's West Virginia properties. On June 20th, while at one of the leases, he was suddenly taken ill, and placed himself under the care of a physician at Weston. On June

22d, his condition becoming alarming, he was taken to a hospital in Clarksburg, and died there the following day. He is buried in Grove Hill cemetery, Oil City.

Mr. Rich was one of the members of Company D, 16th N. G. P., in the latter seventies, when Thomas R. Cowell, deceased, was its captain and the late Gen. John A. Wiley was colonel of the regiment. He was prominent in the membership of the Ivy, Venango, Wangan and Oil City Boat Clubs, Riverside Drive Association, National Security League, and the B. P. O. E. lodge. Although his age prevented him from taking an active part in the European war, his patriotism was unbounded and he could always be counted upon to do more than his share in any campaign organized for the purpose of helping win the war.

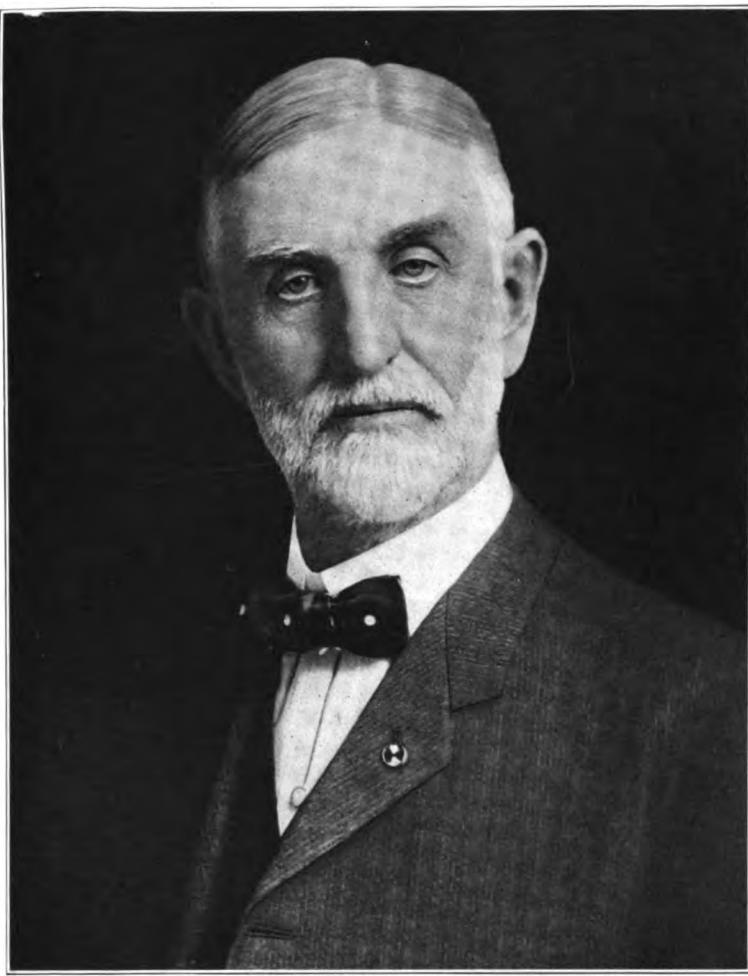
The following words of appreciation, from a friend of many years' standing, speak for themselves: "In all the years I knew him, one marked trait stood out in his robust and manly character. This was bravery of his belief—the adherence in action, against whatever odds, to whatever his reason wrought out. Under the strain of a hazardous business, to which he devoted the greater part of his career, he never faltered in confronting risks. His whole business life was a campaign of pluck, perseverance, and principle. To extol his benevolence, his sympathy for the sufferings of others, his never-sleeping generosity, his hand ever open to patriotic causes and to charity till its pulses ceased to beat, could be appropriate only with those who did not know him. It is enough to say now that the volume of his life is closed. As his acts are recorded, little can be found that could efface a friendship, and I shall ever hold him in affectionate memory."

GEORGE WALKER PLUMER, now a resident of Cleveland, Ohio, was during his earlier business career actively identified with successful mercantile enterprises at Franklin, Pa., and is a member of the Plumer family of honored standing in that city and Venango county. Its earlier history in this country, and an account of its distinguished representative Arnold Plumer, appear elsewhere in this work, and to them the reader is referred for further details regarding the lineage of this branch of the family.

Benjamin Adams Plumer, a brother of Arnold Plumer, and father of George Walker Plumer, was born in Venango county, Pa., Sept. 24, 1803, son of Samuel and Patty

(Adams) Plumer. Almost his entire life was passed in Franklin, this county, where he was known as one of the most enterprising merchants and for his public spirit, manifested in his active interest in all things pertaining to the prosperity and progress of the community. He was prominent in the administration of public affairs, serving as postmaster of Franklin under two appointments, May 9, 1832, and Oct. 9, 1842, with only a brief interruption, William Raymond having been appointed July 10, 1841. Mr. Plumer was treasurer of the county from November, 1836, to January, 1839; and an associate judge for a period of thirteen years, from 1843 until his death, having been first appointed by Governor Porter, reappointed by Governor Shunk, in 1848, and elected by the people in 1851. For several years he was colonel of Venango's regiment of militia, reaching that rank after service in several of the subordinate grades, and retained his interest in military affairs to the close of his life. From youth he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and an honor to the faith which he professed, a consistent Christian in all the relations of life. He left to his children the legacy of an honorable career, marked by the faithful performance of every duty, and died regretted and esteemed by all who knew him, at Franklin, Pa., March 22, 1856.

On May 8, 1831, Mr. Plumer was married to Eliza Power, daughter of George Power, the first white settler in Franklin, and she died a few years before her husband, Nov. 17, 1850. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Dewitt Clinton, who died Jan. 10, 1865, married Lauretta Raymond, daughter of William Raymond, an early settler in Franklin, and their daughter, Lauretta, married Maj. A. C. Rogers. Milo Arnold married Sarah Hoover, daughter of Col. James P. Hoover, and had three children, Eliza (deceased), Carrie (who married Henry B. Anderson and had one son, Henry B., Jr.), and Elizabeth (wife of Dr. James Anderson and mother of four children, Gladys, Plumer, Carrie and Albert). Laura, wife of John P. Park, died March 22, 1890, the mother of Eliza (deceased), Frederick H. (married Harriet Stewart, of Parkersburg, W. Va.), George (deceased), Emma, and Louise (deceased). George Walker, next in the family, is mentioned below. Patty, born in 1845, married James S. Austin and had four children, Arnold Vernon (deceased), Shirley (married Susan Delamater), and James and Frederick, twins (both deceased). Fred C., born March



Geo N. Plummer



13, 1848, married Mary Cubbison and had one daughter, Grace B., who is deceased. Eliza and Mary died young.

George Walker Plumer was born Aug. 26, 1840, at Franklin, Venango Co., Pa., where he was reared and educated, attending the public schools and the old academy. In 1858 he went to Pittsburgh to get a little business experience, and after clerking two years in a dry goods house there returned to Franklin, where he entered the employ of his brothers, D. C. and M. A. Plumer, who were engaged in the same line. Before long he formed a partnership with J. P. Park, with whom he carried on a hardware business for a few years, later becoming associated with G. W. & A. A. Plumer, hardware merchants, with whom he was connected until 1884. In 1887 he removed to Akron, Ohio, where he was established for over a quarter of a century, following the mercantile business and banking, in which lines he was prominent and influential, besides having many other outside interests in manufacturing. For a number of years he was president of the Security Savings Bank of Akron, and after withdrawing from active association with business retained the responsibilities of president of the Abstract Title & Guaranty Company and vice president of the Permanent Building & Loan Association. He was also a leader in the work of the Methodist Church at Akron as he had been at Franklin, having served as trustee at both places. A few years ago, in 1914, Mr. Plumer removed to the city of Cleveland, Ohio, where he has his home at No. 1886 East 101st street.

Mr. Plumer was one of the early members of Mayes Post, G. A. R., of Franklin, later joining Buckley Post, at Akron, Ohio. In 1888 he became affiliated with the Ohio Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. During the Civil war he enlisted, in 1862, in the 121st Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and having been promoted to first lieutenant of Company E served in that rank until 1864, when he resigned on account of disability, after seeing considerable active duty, including the Gettysburg and Fredericksburg campaigns. He still retains his membership in Myrtle Lodge, No. 316, F. & A. M., of Franklin, Pa., which he joined as early as 1864, and belongs to the consistory bodies at Cleveland.

On May 2, 1867, Mr. Plumer married Jane Marshall Whitaker, who was born April 19, 1848, daughter of Albert Pawling and Mary (Simcox) Whitaker, fully mentioned elsewhere in this work. They have had three

children: Mary, born Sept. 5, 1868, married Fred Henry Lyder, and their only child, George Plumer Lyder, is now serving with the American Expeditionary Forces overseas; Eliza, born May 11, 1870, married Stephen H. Kohler, of Akron, Ohio, and has two children, Hurlburt (born March 17, 1896), and Lidie (born July 16, 1902), the former stationed at Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Ky.; George Albert, born Jan. 7, 1873, is at present serving in the ordnance department of the United States government.

JOHN RUSSELL CAMPBELL, now living retired in Oil City, has been one of the makers of history in the oil country, particularly as such. With undisputed gifts as a financier, he was early assigned to responsibilities of that kind, and handled them so cleverly that during the forty years or so of his active business career his duties were principally in that relation, in which he long held the standing of an authority. The time and care he has devoted to different local interests stamp him as a loyal and public-spirited member of the community, ready to prove his good citizenship at every opportunity. In the course of a long and varied life he has made many friends, and he commands the unqualified respect of men, whatever his associations with them.

Alexander Campbell, the great-grandfather of John R. Campbell, was born in Scotland, and brought his family to America in 1775 or 1776, landing at Boston. The unsettled condition of the country at that time no doubt discouraged him, for he set out on the return voyage to Scotland in the same vessel which brought him over, expecting to return later, and leaving his son Alexander, then a boy ten years old, in the care of Dr. Edward Sawyer, of Newburyport, Mass., the rest of the family accompanying the father. The vessel was never afterward heard from.

Alexander Campbell, grandfather of John R. Campbell, was born Dec. 24, 1765, in Edinburgh, Scotland, son of Alexander (above) and Mary (Gorham) Campbell, who it is thought had several children. He was reared by Dr. Sawyer, who seems to have given him a good start in life, and spent all his life as a shipping merchant and vessel owner, being so engaged in 1796 at Newburyport, Mass., as a member of the firm of Alexander Campbell & Company, in trade with the West Indies and European ports. Later he was associated with Ebenezer Whitmore under the name of Whitmore & Campbell until August, 1809, when he

removed to Boston, living on Pearl street. He died in that city April 4, 1811, of apoplexy, and was interred in the Copps Hill burying ground. In 1786 Mr. Campbell married Elizabeth Fowler, who was born Jan. 11, 1768, daughter of Lemuel and Mary (Bolter) Fowler, and died in Boston Oct. 15, 1819, of yellow fever; she was interred in lot No. 77 in the Copps Hill burying ground.

Alexander Hamilton Campbell, son of Alexander and Elizabeth (Fowler) Campbell and father of John R. Campbell, was born Feb. 13, 1795, in Newburyport, Mass., where he lived until the family removed to Boston in 1809. It seems likely that he adopted a seafaring life, for about 1813 a vessel in which he was making a voyage from the West Indies was captured by a French privateer, and the latter being taken by an English frigate he was imprisoned in England, spending two years at Dartmoor. He was severely wounded in the massacre of prisoners there April 6, 1815, and at the end of hostilities was released and returned home. For several years afterward he was engaged as captain on packets sailing between Boston and Liverpool, and during this time carried many distinguished passengers whose friendship he retained. He also made voyages to Chinese and East Indian ports, retiring from the sea at the close of 1826 and settling at New Bedford, Mass. In 1838 he removed to Philadelphia, where the remainder of his life was spent, his death occurring in that city in 1853.

On Feb. 5, 1827, Mr. Campbell married Abby Tillinghast Russell, daughter of Charles Russell, of New Bedford, and she died Dec. 29, 1833, the mother of the following children: Sarah, born Jan. 29, 1828, died Feb. 8, 1829; Isabel Rogers, born Feb. 14, 1830, married Dec. 23, 1852, Charles H. Lay, and died April 7, 1908; John Russell was next in the family; Thomas Ashburner, born Aug. 18, 1832, died Sept. 17, 1833; William Tillinghast, born Dec. 13, 1833, died March 29, 1836. The mother was buried in New Bedford. On June 11, 1835, the father married (second) Phoebe Champlin, daughter of William and Elizabeth Tillinghast, of New Bedford, and to this marriage were born the following children: William Tillinghast, born May 31, 1837, died Jan. 15, 1838; Alexander Hamilton, born June 16, 1838, died unmarried Oct. 21, 1863; William Henry, born Jan. 3, 1840, married Jan. 7, 1864, Clara Pettit, who died Aug. 11, 1884, and he married (second) April 16, 1903, Harriet Fleming Hall; Charles, born March 14, 1842, died March 20, 1842; Elizabeth, born Jan. 4,

1843, died April 9, 1854; Sarah, born Nov. 4, 1845, married Nov. 12, 1873, William A. Tillinghast, and has one son, Thomas, born May 20, 1877.

John Russell Campbell was born April 18, 1831, in New Bedford, Mass., and passed his early life there and in Philadelphia, during the family's residence in the latter city attending the celebrated school presided over by Rev. Samuel Aaron, at Norristown, Pa. Following his graduation from that institution he served an apprenticeship in the Baldwin Locomotive Works at Philadelphia, where he remained for five years, during which period he gained a practical knowledge of mechanics. Though barely past his majority when his father died, he wound up the affairs of the general commission business which the latter had conducted. For a few years he was in business in Philadelphia on his own account, being associated with William L. and Charles H. Lay (afterward of Oil City) in the manufacture of printing inks, but in 1859 he found it necessary to make a change on account of his health, and spent some time in Texas. Returning to Philadelphia in 1860, he engaged in the general commission business in 1861, continuing in that line until 1865, when he made a trip to the oil regions in the interest of some oil companies in which he held stock. Conditions must have looked promising, for he removed his home to Oil City the same year and at once entered upon an active association with its affairs, taking care of various other interests in addition to the management of his oil investments. For a time he was publisher of the *Oil City Register*, later a notary public and treasurer for the receiver of the Oil City & Pithole Railroad Company—the first of the many treasurerships to his credit. In 1867 he took a position as bookkeeper with Vandergrift & Lay, oil shippers, and was similarly engaged successively with J. J. Vandergrift and Vandergrift & Forman, in 1868, and thereafter receiving the appointment of treasurer of the several pipe lines owned and controlled by the latter firm. Their system was the forerunner of the extensive and efficient means of transporting oil which has been so cleverly developed, and Mr. Campbell was intrusted with the important and intricate task of working out and perfecting an accurate and adequate method of keeping the numerous accounts, so that a comprehensive and reliable knowledge of each and every one was immediately available. It was a responsibility requiring originality as well as a thorough knowledge of accounting, but he proved equal to it, devising

a method which, with the modifications necessary because of the introduction of improvements in various lines, is still in satisfactory use. Mr. Campbell's high character and proved integrity earned him the fullest confidence of his employers and business associates, and he showed himself worthy of it. It was in recognition of his sterling personal traits as well as his ability in finance and organization that, when the pipe lines of Vandergrift & Forman were incorporated with the United Pipe Lines in 1877, he was elected treasurer of that corporation. When the United Pipe Company, in turn, was merged into the National Transit Company, he was elected treasurer of the United Lines division, and continued to hold that position, together with a number of other similar responsibilities, until his resignation in 1903, at which time he was treasurer of twelve different corporations connected with the Standard Oil Company.

Mr. Campbell had the foresight to realize that Oil City was not a mushroom growth, and that the resources of these fields conduced to permanent business and social conditions. Hence from the establishment of his home here he has encouraged local enterprises and given his aid to promoting their success, particularly in his capacity as financier, in which his management and counsel were very valuable. The Oil City & Petroleum Bridge Company, incorporated in 1864, undertook the construction of the first bridge over the Allegheny at Oil City, and had part of the work done when an unexpected flood early in 1865 carried it away, involving losses which had to be covered before the work could be continued. Mr. Campbell was elected secretary and treasurer of the new organization, reconstructed the company, obtained new subscriptions, managed the completion of the bridge and placed the affairs of the company on a solid basis, serving it for some years. He was a charter member of the Venango Bridge Company, which he also served as secretary and treasurer, from Nov. 10, 1874, until April 13, 1886. He was a director of the Oil City Trust Company, serving many years as a member of its board. He was a charter member of the Oil City Hospital and also of the Oil City Relief Association and in each was president and director for many years.

When the Ivy Club of Oil City was organized Mr. Campbell became a charter member, and he served eight terms as president of this successful social body. He is a high Mason, affiliating with Meridian Sun Lodge No. 158, F. & A. M., of Philadelphia; Oil City Chapter

No. 236, R. A. M.; Talbot Commandery No. 43, K. T.; Venango Lodge of Perfection; Pittsburgh Consistory; and was crowned a thirty-third-degree Mason in 1906. He is one of the oldest members of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, of which he has been vestryman and treasurer, and he assisted in the erection of the former and present houses of worship with his time and means.

Mr. Campbell occupies a fine home at No. 116 West Second street, Oil City. On May 12, 1863, he married Emma Ford, of Philadelphia, who died Nov. 2, 1895. His second marriage, on April 19, 1899, was to Anna M. Macpherson, of Canada. He has no children.

Through his grandmother Elizabeth (Fowler) Campbell Mr. Campbell is a descendant of Philip Fowler, born about 1590 in Marlboro, Wiltshire, England, who arrived in or near Ipswich, Mass., in May, 1634. He died there June 24, 1679. Lemuel Fowler, one of his direct descendants, was born Sept. 4, 1736, and died in 1828 in Boscawen, N. H., at the advanced age of ninety-two years, after being helpless with rheumatism for fifteen years. He had a large farm at that place. He was a "minute man," a private on Lexington Alarm Rolls in Captain Little's company, and took part in the skirmish at Cambridge, Mass., April 19, 1775.

The following history of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church of Oil City was compiled by Mr. Campbell.

Christ Church appears to have had its beginning in 1861, at which time occasional services were held by Episcopalian clergymen in such buildings as could be secured. Mr. W. R. Johns, in the *Oil City Derrick Souvenir*, states: "The first building used for church purposes in 1861 was a frame structure lined with a linen cloth instead of plaster, that previously had been used as a banking house by C. V. Culver." This had been removed from Main street to the flats about where the National Transit shops now stand. Boards laid on trestles served for seats, and as they were usually well saturated with oil from the rubber coats of male worshippers, newspapers (when they could be had) were spread upon them to protect the dresses of attending ladies.

Bishop Alonzo Potter in a letter refers to the Rev. Dr. Purdon, in 1862, then a deacon, to be missionary of the Oil Regions. Mr. Purdon's first service in Oil City was on Sunday, June 8, 1862, and he continued holding services until he was removed to Titusville in 1863. Rev. J. W. Tays was sent as missionary

to succeed Mr. Purdon, and he held occasional services at Oil City until his removal in the spring of 1865. At Advent, in the middle of December, 1865, the Rev. Marcus A. Tolman, rector of St. John's at Franklin, held a service in Bascom's Hall on Main street, in the Third ward. In January, 1866, he held another service, and as the interest seemed to warrant some steps toward a permanent organization were taken.

A service was held in the new First Presbyterian Church Feb. 20, 1866, which was followed by a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of organizing a parish. At this meeting there were about fifty persons present, Rev. Marcus A. Tolman presiding. George E. Shepard acted as secretary. The organization was effected by the election of wardens and vestrymen: A. L. Bennett, senior warden; John C. Welsh, junior warden; John B. McMullen, George E. Shepard, John B. Candy, Alex. W. Meyers, Charles Frink, Matthew McGarvey, Emmet Edgerton. It was decided that the parish would be temporarily under the charge of the Rev. Marcus A. Tolman. In August, 1866, the call was given the Rev. R. D. Nevius, of Mobile, Ala., to officiate as rector of the parish of Oil City in connection with the parish of Rouseville, and was accepted.

At this time Mrs. William L. Lay was one of the most active workers, and organized a choir with Mrs. Kicklin as organist.

At the Diocesan Convention, in 1867, the parish was admitted into union with the Diocese.

In 1868 church services were held in Excelsior Hall, but on Christmas Day, that year, the church services were held in a room in the Mercantile building on the corner of Center street and Railroad avenue.

In February, 1869, the Rev. Mr. Nevius, having received a call to St. John's Church, Mobile, Ala., resigned charge of the parish. In September, 1869, the Rev. Morison Byllesby was transferred from St. John's Church, Meadville, Pa., to Christ Church, Oil City. In December, 1869, the question of building a church was adjusted and a lot secured on the South Side, on First street.

In March, 1870, a building committee was appointed to secure a place for a wooden church, and Sept. 28, 1870, the building was reported completed. Mrs. William L. Lay was very active in securing funds to erect the building.

On Jan. 25, 1871, the little church was duly consecrated by the Rt. Rev. J. B. Kerfoot,

D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, assisted by ten other clergymen. The Rev. John Scarborough preached the sermon. Ten days after the consecration Rev. Mr. Byllesby presented his resignation.

In May, 1871, Rev. John F. Protheroe, of Corry, Pa., accepted the rectorship.

On Sept. 8, 1875, Rev. Mr. Protheroe was transferred to another part of the Diocese. The Rev. C. G. Adams, of Northumberland, Pa., accepted the vacancy, and held his first service Nov. 7, 1875.

On May 31, 1879, the Rev. Mr. Adams left the parish, having received a call to a church in the East. On Dec. 22, 1879, Rev. Peter B. Lightner accepted the vacancy.

On March 12, 1881, the building of the rectory was discussed by the vestry and a lot on First street, below Lincoln, was purchased. On April 10, 1882, the rectory was reported finished and occupied.

On Sept. 3, 1882, the Rev. Peter B. Lightner resigned, and on Dec. 5, 1882, the Rev. J. H. B. Brooks, of Salisbury, Md., was called to the rectorship.

As the old church required repairs and was not of sufficient size to receive the congregation, a property was purchased at the corner of First street and Central avenue, on which to erect a new structure. The total cost of the church building complete and furnished, including the lot occupied by it and also the organ, was about twenty-five thousand dollars and the indebtedness was the mortgage of seven thousand dollars. On Easter Monday, April 10, 1887, the Church was opened for the first time with the service of benediction by the Rt. Rev. Cortland Whitehead, Bishop of the Diocese.

Sunday, June 2, 1892, Oil City was devastated by a terrible disaster of fire and flood.

Our rector, Rev. Mr. Brooks, was so indefatigable in his services to those in affliction that he required a rest, and a leave of absence was granted him for two months. During his absence Mr. H. L. Foster, senior warden, usually conducted the church services.

In 1894 Oil City and Christ Church suffered a serious loss in the removal to Chicago of Mr. H. L. Foster, who had been senior warden since April, 1883.

On May 12, 1894, the church was duly consecrated, the debt upon the building having been fully paid.

During the summer and fall of 1901 the health of the Rev. Mr. Brooks failed greatly, but in November he became seriously ill, and Dec. 16, 1901, the Rev. C. H. Stocking, D. D.,

was engaged to officiate for a short time. On Feb. 11, 1902, the beloved rector was called to rest after nineteen years of faithful and laborious services in this parish. Dr. Stocking continued in charge of the parish during the summer of 1902.

On March 9, 1903, the vestry gave a call to the Rev. John Dows Hills, of Buffalo, N. Y., which was accepted, and he entered upon the rectorship March 15, 1903. During the incumbency of Rev. Dr. Hills the parish house was constructed. Dr. Hills expatiated on the importance in having this structure erected, and it was mostly at his instance that it was undertaken and completed. Messrs. Charles H. Lay, Jr., W. S. McCuen and F. S. Bates, of the vestry, with the aid of the ladies, were elected to assist Dr. Hills in the construction of the parish building, which was formally opened Sept. 26, 1906, for the duties for which it was erected.

In October, 1906, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the service of William F. Cullis as organist and choirmaster was fittingly observed.

At a special meeting of the congregation held Feb. 20, 1907, resolutions were adopted defining more explicitly the requirements of voters and vestrymen.

On Dec. 9, 1908, the congregation suffered the loss by death of Mr. Kenton Chickering, who had been for many years closely interested in the affairs of Christ Church. He was senior warden, a steady attendant, and generous with his means.

On Aug. 14, 1909, Dr. John Dows Hills, rector, tendered his resignation, which was accepted with regret by the vestry. Dr. Hills had been rector for over six years and during his active incumbency the parish house had been erected mainly through his efforts.

On Nov. 2, 1909, the rector, J. E. Reilly, D. D., was tendered the rectorship, which he accepted, entering upon his duties Dec. 1st.

There being an apparent need to divide the Diocese of Pittsburgh, it was finally decided by the Diocese to do so, which resulted in Oil City being placed in the new Diocese of Erie, and the first convention of the Diocese of Erie was held in Franklin May 23, 1911.

The congregation and vestry of Christ Church lost, March 27, 1914, one of their oldest members in length of service, Mr. Benjamin F. Brundred. He was always interested in the needs of the congregation and most faithful in attendance at the church services, and gave of his means generously to the support of the church.

On Thursday, May 7, 1914, the congregation lost by death another valued member, Isaac Ash, Esquire, a constant attendant at the church services and a member of the vestry since 1876.

On Feb. 22, 1917, the congregation of Christ Church lost another valued member by the death of Mr. Henry Irving Beers, a member of the vestry since 1875.

The present members of the vestry are: Rev. J. E. Reilly, D. D., Rector; Col. E. V. D. Selden, Senior Warden; W. I. Rehr, Junior Warden; E. R. Shepard, Treasurer; Maj. James A. Fawcett, Secretary; C. J. Smith; D. J. Bolton; George Yardley; P. C. Beers; J. W. Prince; J. H. Chickering; F. C. McGill; J. K. Earp.

WILLIAM CROSS, a leading farmer of Clinton township, is a native of Clintonville and a worthy representative of one of its most respected families, whose members in every generation have been people of substantial character and admirable qualities. As leaders in local business enterprises, public-spirited citizens and desirable members of society personally they have contributed their share to the general well-being, steadily and without ostentation, attending thriflily to their own affairs, with due regard for their responsibilities toward others.

The first of this family in Venango county was William Cross, well remembered in this section of Pennsylvania as a pioneer iron manufacturer of Butler, Venango and other counties. He was a son of Samuel Cross, a native of Ireland who lived in eastern Pennsylvania and later at Centerville, Butler county, and who had a family of twelve children by two marriages, eight sons and four daughters. One son, Joseph, was elected to the Pennsylvania legislature from Butler county, where all of the family remained but William.

William Cross served during the war of 1812 in the commissary department. Removing in 1831 to Franklin, Pa., he leased a forge and engaged in the manufacture of iron there for a short time, also living in Rockland township, this county, before he settled at Clintonville, in July, 1835. There he made his home during the remainder of his life, one of the most active business men of his day. He erected a residence and store, being the first merchant at that place, and for years carried on a grocery and general mercantile business alone or in association with others, a great part of the time in partnership with his son Robert. But he was especially well known

as a skillful builder of furnaces, having erected and operated the following: Slab furnace, in Cranberry township; Sandy, in Victory township; Van Buren, in Cranberry township; Bullion and Jane, in Clinton township; Forest, near Tionesta; and Pleasant Grove, in Lancaster county. He was also interested in various grist, carding and saw mills, erecting many in the western counties of Pennsylvania, and at one time having seven in active operation. His energy never abated, though he lived to his seventy-sixth year. After the discovery of oil in his locality he spent a great deal of time and money in experiments with refining, a process not yet understood, skimming oil from the surfaces of rivers and creeks for this purpose. He put thirteen thousand dollars into these experiments. His death, on Nov. 24, 1861, occurred while he was driving home to Clintonville in his wagon, with a supply of oil from the river. Mr. Cross married Jane Weakly, daughter of Robert Weakly, of Butler county, and she, too, died at Clintonville, aged seventy-five years. They were members of the United Presbyterian Church, and he was a Whig in politics. Mr. and Mrs. Cross became the parents of nine children, viz.: Samuel W., Robert, Wilson, William C. (who served as treasurer of Venango county), Harriet (wife of Thomas Hoge, who was mayor of Franklin and a member of the State Senate), Sarah Jane (Mrs. Nathan Davis), Matilda (Mrs. John Maxwell) and two daughters named Caroline, one dying young. The family had the best educational facilities possible here at the time, the parents, who were among the most advanced residents of the locality, taking great interest in the establishment of the academy and helping to start it.

Robert Cross, son of William and Jane (Weakly) Cross, was a prominent citizen of Clinton township for many years. Born May 3, 1811, in Pittsburgh, Pa., he attended public school there up to the age of eleven years, when he moved with his parents to Butler county, the family locating at Centerville, and he was a young man when he accompanied them to Venango county. He became a contractor and builder, and he was also largely associated with his father in business, both in merchandising and in his experiments at refining oil. After his father's death he continued the mercantile trade on his own account at Clintonville, and meantime also served as postmaster, being the first there to hold the office, in which he was retained for the long period of forty years. He was also interested in farming, carrying on both his agricultural and mercantile pur-

suits until shortly before his death, which occurred at his home in Clintonville June 22, 1874. Mr. Cross was the foremost business man of Clintonville during most of his active career, and equally zealous in all else that pertained to the well-being of that place and its inhabitants. He was an elder of the Presbyterian Church, and one of its generous supporters, an enthusiastic advocate of progress in education and other uplifting influences, charitable and helpful to those less able or less fortunate than himself in material affairs, and a loyal public servant. He was an ardent Democrat and active in politics, and served his township as roadmaster and supervisor, also filling the office of associate judge of Venango county for one term. About 1860 he built the brick house now occupied by the widow of his son Oliver Byron Cross at Clintonville, burning the brick for it himself.

On Dec. 25, 1835, Robert Cross married Hannah McKissick, who was born April 15, 1816, at Portland, Maine, daughter of Aaron and Mary (Means) McKissick and of Scotch ancestry. Aaron McKissick was engaged in general contracting. About 1818 he settled with his family at Franklin, Pa., later removing to Sandy Lake township, Mercer county, where his wife died when about eighty years old. His death occurred at Waterloo, Venango county, not far from Mercer county, about 1850. Their children, all now deceased, were as follows: Putnam, John, Henry, Oliver, Hannah (Mrs. Robert Cross), Jane (Mrs. Henry Near), Mary (wife of Dr. A. J. McMillen), Sophronia (Mrs. Henry Smail) and Thomas S.

Mrs. Cross died May 8, 1893, at Sandy Lake, Pa. She was the mother of nine children, namely: Caroline died when thirteen years old; Mary Jane married E. P. Newton, and both are deceased (they left two daughters, Kate, who is married and living in New Castle, and Lovisa Florence, deceased); Hattie Agnes married Maj. Robert J. Phipps and lived in Franklin, and of their two children Marshall Lee married Bell Campbell and Lizzie is deceased (this family is mentioned elsewhere in this work); Louisa married Rev. James M. Foster, who survives her, now living at Clark's Mills, Pa.; William is mentioned below; Oliver Byron, deceased, is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Emma F. was married to the late C. M. Riddle, a carpenter, of Clintonville; Alice married Dr. H. Jackson and (second) Joseph Bowman, an oil well driller, of Sandy Lake, Pa.; Henrietta married David V. Eakin, an oil well contractor and well driller, now in Idaho.

William Cross, eldest son of Robert Cross,

was born at Clintonville, Nov. 19, 1845, and grew up at that place. He received his education in the local schools, and has followed the vocation with which he became familiar in youth, being one of the most successful farmers in his portion of Venango county. In 1875 he purchased his present property in Clinton township, the old farm of his wife's father, Samuel Phipps, who made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Cross until his death. The place is near Kennerdell, three and a half miles northeast of Clintonville, and Mr. Cross has been profitably engaged in its cultivation ever since, being one of the substantial agriculturists who have kept up high standards in the township and aided the general progress as well as his own. He deserves mention as one of the most valuable citizens of his neighborhood. In 1888 he was appointed mercantile appraiser, serving one year, and served one term, 1890-93, as county commissioner, his public obligations receiving the same capable and prompt attention that he gives to his private affairs. He is a Democrat in politics, and socially he and his wife rank among the influential people of their locality.

In 1867 Mr. Cross married Nancy Phipps, youngest daughter of Samuel Phipps, and they are the parents of eight children, namely: Effie Mary, now the wife of James I. Black, of Brookville, Pa., an oil driller; Frank, secretary and treasurer of the Sun Oil Company, who married Margaret McKee; Fred A., an engineer, living at Hampton Station, Pa., who married Laura Irwin; Hannah, wife of John J. Porter, of Clarion City, Pa., an oil pumper; William Raymond; Florilla; Harriet, wife of Edson Byer, a farmer of Scrubgrass township, this county; and Robert P., of Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

W. RAYMOND CROSS, son of William and Nancy (Phipps) Cross, was born Oct. 31, 1876, on his father's farm near Kennerdell, and there spent his early life. After acquiring such education as the local schools afforded he attended Grove City College, for four terms, and during his young manhood taught three terms of school in Clinton township. Later he took a course in the famous Eastman business college at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and upon his return to Pennsylvania obtained a position as bookkeeper with the People's Natural Gas Company of Pittsburgh, entering their employ in 1900 and remaining in that city until 1908. In the latter year he was transferred to Oil City, becoming assistant to Mr. J. B. Crawford, general manager of the United Natural Gas Company there. His duties were im-

portant from the first, and with the growth of the business and consequent increase in the demands upon the company for service he assumed additional responsibilities, which he handled so capably that in May, 1916, he was made vice president and general manager of the company. A few months later, in January, 1917, he succeeded Mr. Crawford in the presidency, which he is now filling. Since his removal to Oil City Mr. Cross has also become interested in other gas companies in this part of Pennsylvania, being president of both the Pennsylvania Gas Company of Warren and the Clarion Gas Company, whose business headquarters are at Oil City. In his early connection with this business as accountant, Mr. Cross acquired a thorough knowledge of its financial details which has guided him to practical efforts in the exercise of his executive duties, his familiarity with both ends of the work enabling him to comprehend the possibilities of each and combine them to the best advantage.

Like the members of his family generally, Mr. Cross has been counted upon for help in promoting the social betterment of his community, and he has not been lacking in either the spirit or performance of his duties. He is one of the directors of the Oil City Y. M. C. A., and has responded readily to all calls upon his support for similar enterprises. Fraternally he is a Mason, holding membership in Petrolia Lodge No. 363, F. & A. M., Oil City Chapter No. 236, R. A. M., Talbot Commandery No. 43, K. T., Venango Lodge of Perfection, Pittsburgh Consistory, and Syria Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Pittsburgh. Mr. Cross married Mary Belle Eakin, of Eau Claire, Butler Co., Pa. They have no children.

Mrs. Nancy (Phipps) Cross is a granddaughter of John Phipps, the first of this family to make a permanent settlement in Venango county. Joseph Phipps, the first of this line in America, was of an old English family and settled in Pennsylvania in 1682, coming over with William Penn, who appointed him a member of the first general assembly. He received from Penn deeds of valuable lands that are on record, and copies of which were read at the Phipps Centennial Reunion, held in August, 1897. From him Mrs. Cross traces her descent through Joseph (2), Nathan, Samuel, John and Samuel Phipps, and a detailed account of these generations appears in the record of her brother, Cyrus D. Phipps, elsewhere in this work.

It is supposed that Samuel Phipps, great-

grandfather of Mrs. Cross, moved from Chester, Pa., and took up his residence in Westmoreland county, where he must have lived when his two sons, John and Nathan, came to Venango county. It is not known whether or not he was ever in Venango county.

In the year 1797 John Phipps and his family, accompanied by his brother Nathan, emigrated from Westmoreland county to Clinton township and settled on a 361-acre tract of land, surveyed by Colonel Dale, also taking up a 401-acre tract of land surveyed by Colonel Dale, and a 376-acre tract surveyed March 5, 1807, in pursuance of warrant granted Dec. 2, 1805. When John Phipps arrived in Venango county it was nothing but a wilderness. All the cattle had to be housed at night to keep the wild animals from devouring them, and though he built a large barn to keep his sheep in the wolves broke in one night and destroyed nearly all the flock. The bears would steal the pigs, and smaller animals would get the poultry.

It is singular that not one acre of the original 1138 acres of land owned by John Phipps is now held by any male member of the family. Shortly after the death of John Phipps the large tract of land which he had acquired was portioned out among his sons, David, Samuel, Robert and Joseph. After the death of David in 1857 his farm passed to strangers, and changed hands several times; part of it, on which Mr. Phipps lived at the time of his death, is now in the possession of Lyman J. Cassida. The Samuel Phipps farm was sold in 1875 to William Cross, the husband of his youngest daughter, Mr. Phipps making his home with the young people until his death. The Robert Phipps farm is now the property of Frank Eakin, whose wife was a daughter of John Wareham, of Victory township, and a granddaughter of Maj. John Phipps, son of John and Catherine (Haney) Phipps, the original settlers. In 1868 Joseph Phipps sold his old homestead to Capt. Abraham Witherup, who in 1870 divided it among his two sons, Robert and Samuel Witherup. The part which Robert obtained is now the property of Finley W. Witherup, a great-grandson of John and Catherine Phipps. The portion which Samuel received is now the property of Harry T. Melat.

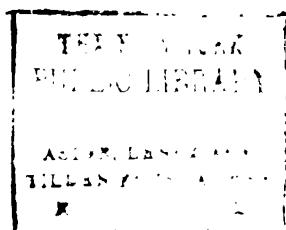
HON. MANLEY COLTON BEEBE (deceased) was one of the most influential men of his generation in Venango county, and his services to his fellow citizens were so diversified that it would be difficult to determine which were most valuable in shaping its progress.

Of high personal character and vigorous intellect, with a gift for practical use of his powers which made all his talents count, he gave impetus to many of the most important movements of his day, choosing his activities with such foresight that his work had permanent value. The fullness of his life might be easily measured by its abundant achievement.

Born Sept. 6, 1827, in Onondaga county, N. Y., Mr. Beebe was a member of an old New England family of English extraction in the paternal line, and his mother was a Webster, cousin of Noah Webster, the lexicographer, one of a long and prominent line of distinguished educators and statesmen. Undoubtedly he inherited the tendencies which led him into his life work, and he lived up to the traditions of an honorable ancestry. During his youth some of the most renowned preparatory schools in the country flourished in central New York, those at Pompey, Scipio, Manlius and Fabius being especially noted, conducted by men whose names became household words in educational circles. He had the advantages of the academy at Fabius, where he completed the course when fifteen years old, even at that early age giving evidence of the studious disposition and keen intellect which characterized him throughout life, and which developed into a capacity for comprehensive and tenacious grasp of abstruse legal, ethical and philosophical problems. As soon as he finished his course at the academy he took up teaching, having schools in that vicinity during the next three years. By that time he had decided to seek his fortune in the then promising young State of Wisconsin, and he started for the West, coming by way of Pleasantville, Venango Co., Pa., where his uncle, Aaron Benedict, had settled. Mr. Benedict was one of the most prominent of its pioneer residents. He had arrived here from his Eastern home about 1827-28, changing his residence partly because of the suspicion that he was in some way associated with the disappearance of the famous William Morgan and the antagonism to members of the Masonic fraternity excited by that event. A man of executive ability and business experience, he founded or encouraged several of the earliest industrial establishments at Pleasantville, including the pottery in which his nephew later became interested. While in a store at Titusville on his way hither, young Beebe overheard a conversation relative to a teacher whom the students had put out of his school, and proffered his services as teacher, promising to retire without pay at the end of a month if he proved unsatisfactory. After a



Wes Beebe



visit with his uncle at Pleasantville (five miles from Titusville) he took up teaching at the school referred to, and with this modest beginning entered upon a career as an educator which extended over many years, during which the marks of his genius were indelibly impressed upon Venango county history through the medium of the citizens who came under his charge. Changing after a time from his original location to Pleasantville, he taught a select school in the upper story of his uncle's pottery, and still later conducted a special school whose instruction embodied the principles at present taught in the normal schools. It is safe to assert that Mr. Beebe was instrumental in enlisting more young men and women for school work than any other educator in Venango county, and he succeeded in inculcating a love for the profession that demanded high standards, grounding in them the idea that a teacher's ambition was not to be bounded by wages or any other consideration than the striving for more elevated ideals and use of the opportunity to sow the seeds of higher citizenship.

Meantime, though his educational work went on through many years, other interests fairly clamored for his attention. A number of progressive residents of Pleasantville thought it desirable to have the village incorporated as a borough, but the sentiment was not unanimous in favor of this movement. However, through persistent effort a charter was secured, and at the first election Mr. Beebe, though not yet twenty-one years old, was chosen a justice of the peace, being inducted into office upon reaching his majority. In those days the duties of a justice were varied and often onerous, as nearly all local disputes were thrashed out in his court. The young man had long possessed the germs of a desire to know the law thoroughly, and the conscientious performance of his responsibilities as magistrate seemed to him to demand legal learning, so he set about to acquire it, becoming so interested that he decided to make the law his regular profession. However, in addition to his work as an instructor and his official obligations he also had business affairs to attend to, his uncle having persuaded him to take an interest in the pottery, which was becoming the leading industry of the place, workmen being brought from Scotland to operate the queensware department. Though for several years he was associated with the executive duties of this enterprise he always kept it secondary to his school work, but it took up much of his time that he would have

preferred to devote to pursuits of a more purely intellectual order. To make more headway in his legal studies he went to Saratoga to attend lectures, but was recalled through the urgency of work at the pottery, and he had to persist in his law work under difficulties. In fact, it was not until March, 1868, that he was admitted to the bar and to practice in the Venango county courts, nevertheless he made a great success as an attorney after he had the opportunity to take up practice. But he never allowed his new profession to interfere with his interest in his early calling. His experience as justice of the peace, and the popular confidence which he gained while acting in that capacity, made him the trusted counselor of many in his locality, so that he transacted much legal business for years before his formal association with the bar. Yet with it all he always found time to promote educational interests in his county. In 1854 he was elected county superintendent of schools, being the first to be so honored when the office was created, and he filled it for three years, setting a standard of high service which influenced all his successors. The salary of one hundred and fifty dollars a year was a nominal return for the thought and devotion which he gave to his duties. He visited every school personally, became acquainted with teachers, patrons and pupils, and by advice and precept instilled new life and ideas into every schoolroom, practically revolutionizing the system then in vogue by his earnestness in behalf of better things. As usual, there were many who held aloof, disdaining any innovations which would change the established order. But his persistence and intelligent presentation of his theories won, and the better buildings, better teachers and better salaries which he advocated began to replace the uncomfortable accommodations and indifferent methods which marked the old regime. In 1861-62 Mr. Beebe was a member of the State legislature, where his services were marked by his customary fidelity to the trust reposed in him. Every measure brought up for the successful conduct of the war and the protection of home interests had his full support. He was especially solicitous in looking after the soldiers, and received a commission from Governor Curtin to visit the camps and look after Pennsylvania men in hospitals or elsewhere in need of attention. In the performance of this duty he made repeated trips to the front, often securing such alleviation of suffering through modification of hospital conditions that it is reasonable to believe many a sick or wounded boy owed his

life to Mr. Beebe's efforts. Though himself handicapped by poor health, he never hesitated to sacrifice his own comfort to attend to the urgent needs of others. In one case he even sought the intervention of Secretary Stanton. A soldier named Joe Hutchins had become so reduced through the ravages of chronic dysentery, that worst scourge of our army, that it was apparent he had but a short time to live, and papers were prepared for his discharge. Before they could be presented, however, he was removed to another hospital, and the procedure and disappointment were repeated. By taking the case up personally with Secretary Stanton Mr. Beebe obtained the young man's release, to allow him to come home to die, and took him into his own home, where his death occurred a few months later. It was typical of his thoughtfulness for others.

Mr. Beebe was urged to accept the Congressional nomination, but he declined because of his uncertain health. He did accept when elected delegate to the State Constitutional convention in 1872, being fully alive to the needs of the developing State, and many of his ideas were embodied in the Constitution adopted at the convention, which was held in 1873. The respect shown for his opinions was a flattering tribute. He was a firm believer in the principles of democratic government and a lover of the highest American ideals, ingrained by his critical familiarity with philosophy and general history, and he endeavored to square his public duties with his principles. Though the platform of the Republican party expressed his own sentiments politically, he was not always in accord with the personal view of its leaders, and realized that there was a tendency toward autocracy based on wealth. During the presidency of General Grant that drift was so marked as to cause serious alarm, and it was sufficiently strong to make him diverge more and more from the party until he was practically independent in politics. During his later years, and until his death, Mr. Beebe was a member of the State Board of Agriculture, and his services in that body had important bearing upon the establishment and maintenance of State colleges and their agricultural departments, resulting in great improvements in the line of soil cultivation. He was himself a practical farmer, and spoke and wrote considerably on the subject, whose importance he realized fully and tried to impress upon others. Though not a church member he was a man of deep religious feeling, and he was associated as a director with three churches, trying to follow the Master's teach-

ing as expressed in the golden rule. Blessed in his happy domestic life, and highly respected by a wide circle of warm friends, he passed away when scarcely beyond his prime, July 29, 1885, his death taking place at Asbury Park, N. J., where he had gone to consult noted specialists.

On June 8, 1852, Mr. Beebe married Maria Sophronia Tibbits, who was born Sept. 10, 1831, at Manlius, Onondaga Co., N. Y., daughter of George and Sophronia (Butterfield) Tibbits, and she survives him. She was educated in the academy at Manlius, N. Y., and was also a teacher up to the time of her marriage, since when she has resided at Pleasantville, her home for sixty-six years. The house which she now occupies, in the outskirts of the borough, she erected after Mr. Beebe's death. Like her husband she always exerted a beneficent influence in the community, where she has found many pleasant associations in a long and useful life. Of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Beebe two sons survive, Frank J. and William Dawson, the former a resident of Bradford, Pa. William Dawson Beebe married Della Newkirk, daughter of William Newkirk, a well remembered merchant at Pleasantville, and they have five children, namely: Julia, Maxwell Newkirk, Mandley Colton, Mildred and Dorothy.

FREDERICK GLASS BOYER (deceased) left a memory of agreeable associations which makes his name cherished by the many who enjoyed the pleasure of his friendship in the various activities of his well filled life. His business cares, though important and exacting, were lightened by the frank and cordial esteem of his co-workers; his social tastes and love of outdoor recreation led him into many delightful companionships with those of congenial habits; and his scrupulous observance of his duties in every relation of life showed a full appreciation of its obligations and a spirit willing to assume them.

Mr. Boyer was born Aug. 23, 1855, at Salem, Snyder Co., Pa., and died Dec. 16, 1914, at Oil City, where he settled in 1891. His father, Henry S. Boyer, was also a native of Snyder county and held the position of county surveyor there, being a civil engineer by calling. He also did considerable work as a surveyor in Northumberland and Schuylkill counties, of coal lands in the latter county, and took care of most of the surveying for Ira T. Clement, of Sunbury, a large landowner in that section. Mr. Boyer died at Pottsville, Pa., with his son William H. Boyer, who was then resid-

ing at that place. By his marriage to Sarah Glass he had three children: Frederick Glass; Mary A., deceased; and William H., now a resident of Sunbury.

Frederick Glass Boyer, the eldest of the family, grew up in the locality of his birth. He had average educational advantages in his boyhood, but was still young when he learned telegraphy, becoming expert in that line and as an electrician. He learned his profession at Selins Grove Junction, and soon afterward took a position as operator on the Northern Central line (now a part of the Pennsylvania system). Later he was at the DY Tower, Sunbury, where he remained for about six years, in June, 1880, removing to Bradford, Pa., at which point he was stationed for eleven years as telegrapher with the American Transfer Company (later merged into the National Transit Company). On April 1, 1891, he was transferred to Oil City, to take the position of assistant superintendent of telegraph, for which he proved to be well qualified, developing executive talents that brought him further promotion when the opportunity came. In February, 1905, W. W. Splane resigned the superintendency of telegraph service for the National Transit Company and the other associated pipe line companies of the Standard Oil Company, and Mr. Boyer was appointed to succeed him, having been well prepared for the responsibilities of the work by his experience as assistant. When the Standard Oil Company was dissolved he was retained as superintendent of telegraph of the northern group of its old pipe lines, comprising the Indiana Pipe Line Company, the Buckeye Pipe Line Company, the Northern Pipe Line Company and the New York Transit Company, with headquarters still at Oil City. He was so engaged until his death, which occurred a few days after an attack of paralysis, at his home on Orange street, Oil City.

The Oil City *Derrick*, at the time of his death, spoke thus of Mr. Boyer and his standing in the community: "Few residents could count more members of this community as warm personal friends or admirers than Mr. Boyer, whose residence here covered a period of almost twenty-five years. He was a lover of the outdoors, an enthusiastic angler, friendly, courteous and considerate, manly and outspoken, qualifications in his private life that in part explain his high standing in the esteem and feelings of his acquaintances and his associates." Nothing could better have exemplified the sentiment of his fellow citizens than the outpouring of sympathy shown upon his death.

The offices of the Northern Pipe Line Company in Oil City were closed during his funeral services and practically all the local officers and clerks were in attendance. His responsibilities had brought him into familiar association with officers, heads of departments and employes of the pipe line and transit companies as well as those in the telegraphic departments, and all were well represented personally or by floral offerings. His brother Knights Templars acted as pall bearers, and the commitment services in Grove Hill cemetery were in charge of Petrolia Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Boyer was a prominent member of the Bonnell Outing Club, the Oil City Boat Club and the Acacia Club, and was devoted to his Masonic affiliations, which were with Petrolia Lodge No. 363, F. & A. M., of Oil City; Oil City Chapter No. 236, R. A. M.; Talbot Commandery, K. T.; Venango Lodge of Perfection, A. A. S. R.; Pittsburgh Consistory; and Zem Zem Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S.

In 1880 Mr. Boyer married Annie M. Keller, daughter of George and Susan (Potter) Keller, farming people of Fishing Creek township, Columbia Co., Pa., where Mrs. Boyer was born. Her father died there. Mr. and Mrs. George Keller had six children, namely: Charles H., who is deceased; Sarah C., deceased, who was the wife of J. W. Moss; Annie M., Mrs. Boyer; Jacob B., living at Jacksonville, Fla.; Alice R., who is married to Lloyd M. Quick and lives in Fairmount township, Luzerne Co., Pa.; and Nettie, deceased, who was the wife of P. D. Appleman.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyer became the parents of three children: Nettie M. died when six months old; Mabel is the wife of William H. Klase, of Oil City, and has one son, Harold Boyer; Charles H., of Oil City, married Mary D. Hannon and has two children, A. Mabel and Mary Dorothy. Mrs. Annie M. Boyer continues to occupy the old home at No. 210 Orange street, Oil City.

MADISON M. SMALL, of Jackson township, one of the owners of the famous Small Farm in Sugar Creek valley, two and a half miles north of Cooperstown, is a worthy representative of a family long noted in this part of Venango county. He has been one of its most progressive agriculturists, not only in the furtherance of his own enterprises, but also in his participation in all movements looking to the improvement of material or social interests, exhibiting the sturdy intelligence and enlightened disposition which made his father and grandfather leaders of thought and action

among their fellow men. Capt. Samuel Small, the original settler on the fine property now occupied by Madison M. Small and his family, came here in 1816, and it has ever since been in the possession of the family.

Capt. Samuel Small was born Dec. 10, 1773, in the North of Ireland, and was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Coming to America about 1800, he lived in York county, Pa., until the war of 1812, in which he served as a captain, having organized a company to go to Erie. He brought his company through Venango county on its way to join Commodore Perry, hearing of the famous battle en route. Captain Small was so favorably impressed with this region that when he returned to York county he obtained a yoke of oxen and brought his family out here in a wagon, having decided to settle on a tract which he admired, lying along Sugar creek—the present home of his grandson, Madison M. Small. He bought a tract comprising from three hundred and seventy-five to four hundred acres, and made a location on it between Sugar creek and Lake creek, spending the remainder of his life in the improvement of this property, where he died at the age of sixty-five years. The country was new, game of all kinds abounded, and Indians were even yet seen in the vicinity, but he and his family labored industriously to make a home and succeeded in raising the value of their property even under the adverse conditions then existing. Captain Small was a carpenter by trade, and built many houses and other structures in the new settlement, where mechanics were scarce and in great demand. He was a Freemason, belonging to a lodge in Philadelphia, and his great-grandson Walter M. Small, also a Mason, now holds his sheepskin certificate of membership. The Captain's wife was a woman of fine mind and character, looking after her household very capably. They brought four children with them, Samuel H., the eldest son, being the father of Madison M. Small; Mary, the oldest child, married Ransol Smith and removed to Illinois, where she died, leaving six children and their many descendants; Moses H., the second son, born Jan. 16, 1813, in York county, Pa., was married in 1850 to Sarah Collins, spent his life on part of the old farm, and is buried in Plum Church cemetery (he was an earnest member of the M. E. Church at Sunville); Jane, the youngest, married Stephen Collins and like her sister went West (they had one child, now Mrs. Nellie M. Norris). The sons bought the daughters' shares in the paternal estate, and the north part,

which Moses H. Small acquired, is also occupied by his descendants at this writing. Of his five children, Nellie died at the age of twelve years; Harvey was thirty years old when he lost his life in a railroad wreck while returning from Scranton; Anson lives at Titusville, Pa.; Mary is the wife of David McAlevey and resides in this vicinity; Retta is the wife of Madison Murphy, and lives on part of her father's old farm.

Samuel C. Small, a cousin of Captain Small, followed him from Ireland within a year or two and also settled in this neighborhood, where he followed the teacher's profession. He was also a Free Mason. He was a weaver by trade. He lived to be over eighty, and his children are also deceased, there being four grandsons of the name in this line now surviving: Curry Small, of Franklin; Lincoln Small, of Oklahoma; Hamilton Small, of Kansas; and John Small, of California. A granddaughter of Samuel C. Small, Edra, Mrs. William Bradley, is living on his old farm.

Samuel H. Small, eldest son of Captain Small, was born Jan. 30, 1810, in York county, Pa., and spent his life on the paternal homestead in Jackson township. After he and his brother bought their sisters' shares they divided the property, and Samuel H. Small devoted himself to general farming and sheep breeding, having raised hundreds of fine Merinos. He was one of the thriftiest and most successful men in his locality, but though he did well enough in his worldly affairs to take an influential place among his neighbors it was his sterling character and whole-souled interest in his fellow men that brought him their high respect and confidence. While yet a young man he was noted for his generosity to those in need, and this habit of helping others was so much a part of his life that his memory has always been cherished for his good deeds. It is said that in proportion to his means he was the most benevolent man in the community, and his kindness was not confined to any one kind of liberality. He and his wife were members of the Free Will Baptist Church, and he practically built the Plum Church of that denomination, donating the land and continuing to be one of its strongest supporters throughout his life. The cemetery was also established on land owned by him and his brother, the incorporation being effected after they died. In his will Mr. Small provided that one-fourth of the proceeds of the sale of his real estate should be turned over to the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missionary So-

ciety, for the spread of the gospel in India. His son, Madison M. Small, bought this interest, and the money paid for it started on its mission. Mr. Small was the only abolitionist in his immediate neighborhood, and his home was a station on the "underground railroad," many a black on his way to Canada being warmed and fed there; his old log house sheltered as many as twenty negroes at one time. He took an active part in public affairs, and was the first man in the township to vote the Republican ticket. In the early days, when game was more plentiful in the vicinity, he enjoyed hunting, being very muscular and fond of outdoor life.

In 1837 Mr. Small married Melissa P. Collins, a school teacher, a native of Essex, N. Y., born Jan. 20, 1815, who died Aug. 10, 1862, after a life devoted to her family and good deeds wherever she found opportunity. In 1866 he married (second) Mrs. Sarah E. (Jamison) Fleming (widow of John Fleming), who was born in Westmoreland county April 4, 1823, and survived him. His death occurred Jan. 26, 1878. To the first marriage were born four children: (1) Mary Melissa, born Nov. 3, 1839, was married in 1858 to Miles G. McAlevy, and had three children, Albert H. (who died in South Dakota), Elzata (who married Wm. Harris) and Georgiana (Mrs. Dunkel), both daughters now living near Los Angeles, Cal.; the family resided near Fort Scott, Kans., and Mr. and Mrs. McAlevy are both now deceased. (2) Samuel W. Small, born March 14, 1847, was taken sick while engaged in teaching school at Sunville, this county, and died June 26, 1869, at Elmira, N. Y.; he was preparing for the ministry, and with all his responsibilities was giving one-tenth of his earnings to charity. (3) Madison M. Small. (4) Alice P. is the wife of George W. Buck, of Weiser, Idaho, and they continue to keep their interest in the Small Farm, where her brother Madison M. Small resides with his family.

Madison M. Small was born May 27, 1849, and has spent his life at his birthplace. He was allowed excellent educational opportunities, attending Sunville Seminary and later entering Hillsdale (Mich.) College, which he left during the sophomore year because of the death of his brother, which made it necessary for him to return to the farm. The property is in prime condition under his able direction, and besides retaining most of his father's holdings he and his son Walter M. Small have acquired more land, having over four hundred acres, of which about one hundred acres are

under cultivation and in pasture lands. The rest is in timber, and according to the State forester there is only one timber tract in the county more valuable, some of the original timber which was here in his grandfather's time still remaining. Part of the residence on the place was built by Samuel H. Small in 1872. The dwelling house and barns are supplied with soft water from springs high up on the hillside. The house is supplied with hot and cold water and bathroom and conveniences, also the dairyroom. Mr. Small follows general farming, but he has also been notably successful as a stock raiser and his exhibits at the county fairs have attracted wide notice. For years he was engaged in the breeding of Dorset horned sheep, and during that time owned the celebrated English ewe Bission Belle, who had the world's record for ewe production, with twenty-three lambs in six years, the males selling for breeding purposes all over the United States. He was also instrumental in organizing the Dorset Horned Sheep Breeders' Association of America. Mr. Small gained a reputation as an authority in this line, but he discontinued breeding because his sheep became infected with internal parasites, also the pastures. Since 1886 he has been interested in the breeding of pure blooded Jersey cattle, having his original stock for about ten years. A number of cows that he raised made phenomenal records and some sold for fabulous prices after passing from his ownership.

The Small farm is good oil territory, and Mr. Small has been producing oil there since 1878, one of his wells having kept up its original yield for thirty-six years. His various lines of enterprise have combined well to keep him busy all the year round and to secure a maximum of return for his labors upon his land. He has been an enthusiastic worker in the Patrons of Husbandry, the local lodge, Sugar Creek Grange, No. 1131, having been organized fourteen years ago and having a present membership of about one hundred and fifty. The meetings are held in the old Plum Church. This order, consisting of all Granges in northwestern Pennsylvania, has its own fire insurance association, giving members the privilege of securing insurance at cost (they carry over twelve million dollars worth of risks) as well as other advantages. Mr. Small has also been a prominent member of the I. O. O. F., being a past noble grand of his lodge and a representative to the grand lodge. He is a Republican in political principle but independent in the use of his ballot, and he has

never sought office for himself, though he has used his influence to place good men in responsible offices.

On Oct. 30, 1883, Mr. Small married Ida M. Alcorn, who is five years his junior. Her parents, Jesse and Anna Belle (Peebles) Alcorn, lived in Cherrytree township, this county, where she was reared. Mr. and Mrs. Small have one son, Walter Madison Small, born July 5, 1887, who has been thoroughly educated, having had the advantages of the local common schools and Cooperstown high school, after which he attended Alden Academy at Meadville and took a literary course in Allegheny College, graduating in the class of 1911. Having become interested in geology he took an additional course at the University of Pittsburgh, in oil and gas geology, meantime teaching for two years at Miles City, Mont., and he subsequently was engaged for a year in the bank of the Franklin Trust Company. Going to Mexico, he was engaged in geological work on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec at the time of the trouble at Vera Cruz, was subsequently employed in Oklahoma, and is now on investigation work in the southwestern oil fields of the United States, in Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Utah and other States in that region, as well as in the Mexican oil fields. He and his squad of men go into the wildest country, traveling with a camping outfit and living wherever their duties call them. The results of some of his explorations are now published in the geological textbooks of some of the colleges, for instance Johns Hopkins University.

GEORGE B. JOBSON, JR., M. D., of Franklin, Pa., was born in Hawick, Scotland, April 18, 1869, eldest son of George B. and Jane (Blaikie) Jobson. In July, 1869, his parents came to America and settled at Amherst, Va., five years thereafter removing to McDonough Institute, Maryland, where the father was instructor in agriculture and stock raising, and where the son's education was commenced. This early training was supplemented by later attendance at the public schools of Millbrook, N. Y., and of Franklin, Pa. In 1890 he received the degree of D. V. S. from the Ontario Veterinary College, of Toronto, Canada, and began a professorship of veterinary anatomy in Columbian University at Washington, D. C. In 1900 he graduated with the degree of M. D. from the Harvey Medical College, of Chicago, where he was assistant to the chair of anatomy two years. For two years he was assistant to Dr. Hale, clinical professor of the eye at the United Hebrews Charities

Dispensary, Chicago, and two years assistant to Dr. Antisdale, in diseases of the nose, throat and ear, at Harvey Medical College.

In the fall of 1902 Dr. Jobson located at Franklin, where he has since specialized in diseases of the eye, ear, throat and nose. During 1915 he was president of the Venango County Medical Society; and in 1916-17 served as secretary of the eye, ear, nose and throat sections of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society. In 1915 he was elected a member of the Franklin board of education, and in 1916-17-18 held the position of president of the school board. He is a member of the Franklin Board of Trade, and State vice president of the Wild Life League of Pennsylvania; a member of the Venango County Medical Society, the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-laryngology; also a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and chairman of the Venango County Committee of Medicine, Sanitation and Hospitals of the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense.

On June 21, 1893, Dr. Jobson was married to Almira E. Giddings, and they have two children, Jean and Marion.

George B. and Jane (Blaikie) Jobson, now residents of Franklin, Pa., had a family of six children: George B., Jr.; William R., M. D., now engaged in the practice of medicine in Oil City, Pa.; Amy, wife of Boyd N. Park, of Franklin, Pa.; Jessie, wife of John McK. Snow, city engineer of Franklin; Alexander B., an attorney at law, practicing in Franklin, Pa.; and Daisy, living at home.

W. O. PLATT, president of the Joseph Reid Gas Engine Company, of Oil City, was born in Clarion county in 1860, but has claimed Oil City as his home town since he was eight years old.

His father was a soldier in the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., in December, 1862, and he received his education in the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools of the State of Pennsylvania until he was sixteen years old.

His first steady job was at the old barrel works, and from that he passed to a job of cleaning castings at the foundry of the W. J. Innis & Co. works, and from that job he passed into their machine shop to learn the machinist's trade. Two years later, in the panic of 1878, the shop shut down and he got a job with Joseph Reid, who was running a jobbing shop on Seneca street.

Four years later he moved on to a job in Corry, Pa., with the Harmon, Gibbs & Co., who, besides making steam engines for the oil country, were doing a general jobbing and repair business. With them he was outside man and had repairs to make in tanneries, gristmills, sawmills, planing-mills, refineries, furniture factories, waterworks, brickyards, printing offices, creameries, bottling works, and at farms and any other places where machinery was used and would need repairs.

As he was not a genius, or one of the "natural" mechanics who are supposed to know all about machinery without study, it had always taken reading and study to keep up with these jobs, and to be ready for the new kinds which kept coming.

In 1888 he returned to Oil City to again enter the shop of Joseph Reid, this time having the position of foreman. This shop had been moved from Seneca street to Elm street, and besides the general jobbing work it was making refinery equipment and a line of crude oil burners. These oil burners had been designed and patented by Mr. Reid, and were so well fitted for their purpose that they are still being made.

He has always considered that it was a great privilege to have been associated with Mr. Reid during the period that Mr. Reid was developing the gas engine and fitting it to oil country uses, and to have had a share in that work.

In 1899 Mr. Reid incorporated his business and the Joseph Reid Gas Engine Company came into being. Mr. Platt was one of the first board of directors, and has continued on the board until the present time. He was also elected as vice president, and was appointed superintendent, and held both of these positions continuously until the death of Mr. Reid in 1917, when he was elected to fill Mr. Reid's place as president.

Mr. Platt had always found the work, the shops and the people of the oil country of absorbing interest and thought that they should interest others, and to test out his theory in 1900 he wrote an article under the title "Echoes from the Oil Country," and sent it to *The American Machinist*. The answer was a check and a request for more, and there began a part of his life that was carried on under the pen name of W. Osborne that has been unknown to all except a few of his intimate friends. During some of the time since that small beginning this branch of Mr. Platt's activities has been the most remunerative, even though it has kept him busy evenings and holidays. He has also been a contributor under

various names to the *Iron Age*, the *Iron Trade Review*, *Foundry, Castings*, the *Gas Engine*, the *American Manufacturer & Iron World*, *Machinery, Pattern Making, Power, Wood Craft*, the *Engineering Magazine*, the *Gas Magazine* and *Industrial Management*. All of these publications are well known to those who are interested in the things which they represent. He has also sent a few articles to *Engineering* of London, England, and they have all been published.

As W. Osborne he has made friends who have written to him from all parts of the English-speaking world, and most of these friends do not yet know that W. Osborne is but part of the name W. O. Platt.

Home study has enabled him to be graduated from the Scranton Correspondence Schools in a course of Mechanical Engineering. He has been since 1902 a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He has been granted a number of patents for inventions that have been of use in developing the oil country, among them being the well known bandwheel power which is manufactured by the Joseph Reid Gas Engine Company, and which is extensively used in the Mid-continent oil fields.

Besides his position as president of the Joseph Reid Gas Engine Company Mr. Platt holds the position of president of the Reid Land & Development Company, which is a company that for years has been engaged in a large way in developing land in the orange belt of central California; of vice president of the Frick-Reid Supply Company, which is one of the large oil well supply houses of the Mid-continent oil fields; is a director of the Oil City National Bank, and of the Home Savings & Loan Association, and is a member of the I. O. O. F., of the Venango Club, of the Wanango Country Club, of the Mid-continent Oil & Gas Association, of the American Founders Association, of the Y. M. C. A., of the Oil City Rifle Association, of the Oil City Motor Club, of the United Sportsmen, of the American Automobile Association, etc.

Mr. Platt married Lucinda A. Messinger, of Elgin, Pa., in 1882, and they have had a family of nine children. Of these Ralph died when seven years of age, Margaret when five, and Fred when twenty-one. The other children are: Hugh A., who is foreman at the Joseph Reid shops; Mrs. Annie L. Brakeman; Mrs. Rose A. Ramsey, of Sewickley, Pa.; Olive M.; Mary L., and J. Reid.

Mr. Platt is certain that the measure of success that has come to him in his passing along

from the job of cleaning castings in a foundry up to his present job has not come to him because of any special ability or of any unusual opportunities, but because he has recognized that every job that he has ever had was big enough to require his best efforts and all the knowledge that he could get from every source within his reach, and because in early life he got a real partner in getting his wife, and because all the way along he has had the privilege of associating with men of ability, integrity, fair mindedness and a willingness to do team work.

**ORRIN DUBBS BLEAKLEY**, of Franklin, has been one of the most conspicuous figures of his generation in Venango county history. Financial enterprises and big business, in both commercial and manufacturing fields, community interests and public affairs, all have felt the influence of his participation. It is true that he had an auspicious beginning, in his association with his father, the late James Bleakley, whose talents and restless vigilance kept him in a foremost position among the men of his day. But it is no less certain that from the start he showed full possession of the individual characteristics necessary to maintain his position, and developed strength so fast that he was not only ready for increasing responsibilities as they came but able to assume more, displaying a gift for large undertakings that has been of vital importance to the locality in enabling it to adjust its industrial economy to modern requirements. Indeed, he is one of the most typical exponents of present day methods and ideals regarding business and finance in the county.

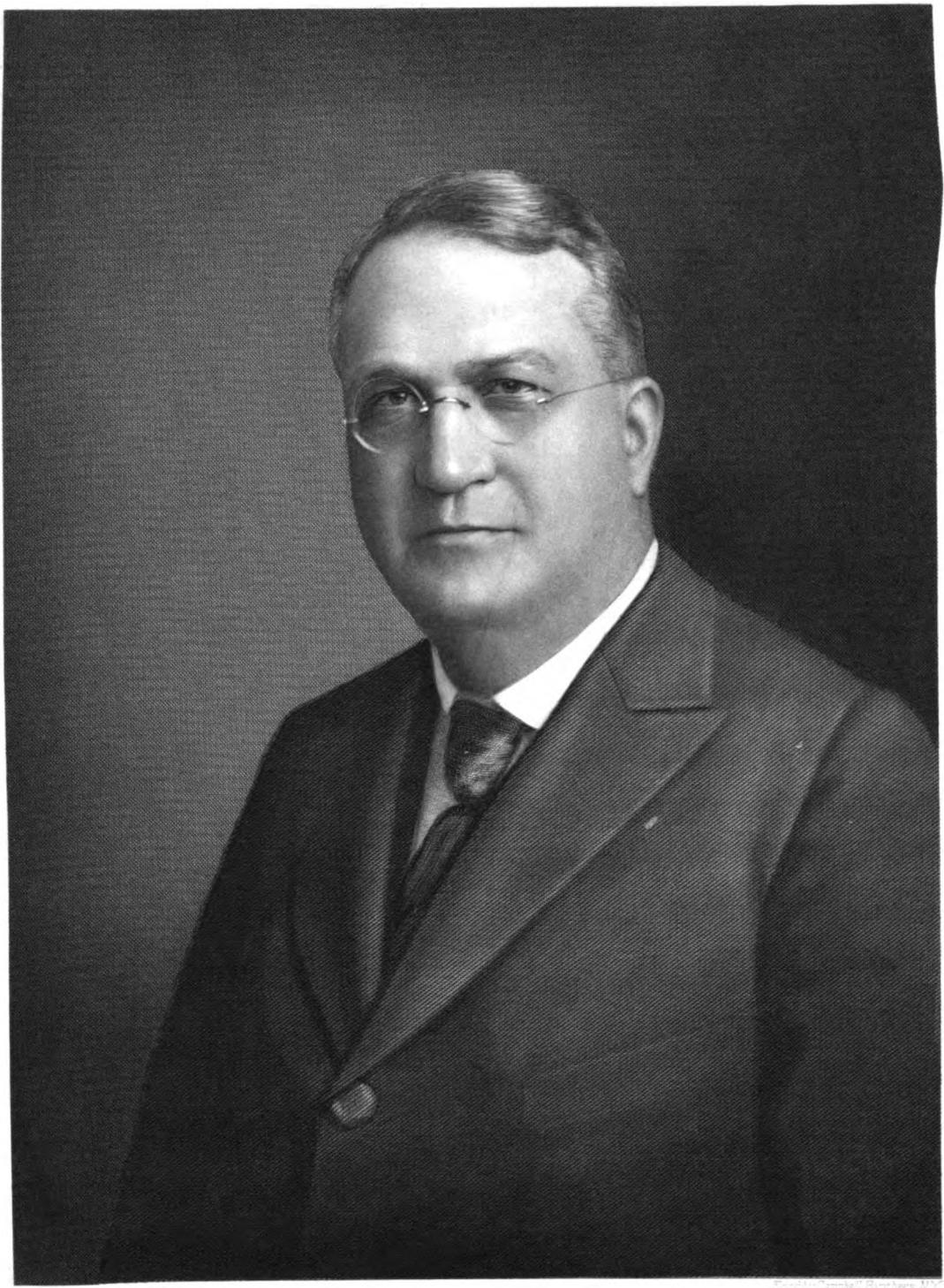
The Bleakleys began their connection with affairs in Franklin more than three quarters of a century ago, and have been prominent in many activities here throughout the intervening period. They are of Scotch-Irish origin, descended from one James Bleakley, whose son John Bleakley was the grandfather of Orrin Dubbs Bleakley. John Bleakley was born Oct. 20, 1788, at Merley, County Tyrone, Ireland, and he and his wife came to this country as young people, in June, 1819, at which time all the inhabitants of their parish save one bore the name of Bleakley. They first settled in Berks county, Pa., and in the summer of 1833 he removed to Venango county, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying at his home in Jackson township Sept. 11, 1869. Mrs. Bleakley died shortly after their arrival in the United States and left one son, James. Mr. Bleakley was a Presbyterian and a Mason, in

good standing in both church and fraternity, as attested by the letter he brought from his pastor and the demit from his lodge in the Jurisdiction of Ireland, a copy of which follows:

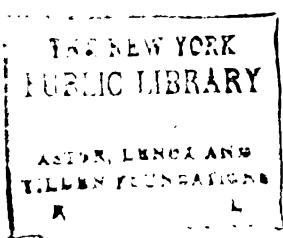
To all whom it May Concern: We the Master Wardens and Secretary of Lodge No. 911, held in the town of Merley, and County Tyrone, and on the Registry of Ireland, do hereby certify that the bearer, Mr. John Bleakley, a regular registered Master Mason in said lodge, and during his stay with us behaved himself as an honest brother. Given under our hands and seal of our lodge in our lodge room, dated this 12th of June, 1819, and of Masonry 5819.

It is signed by Mathew Hunter, master; James Bleakley, senior warden; James Dogherty, junior warden; John Hanna, secretary.

James Bleakley, son of John Bleakley, was born Sept. 13, 1820, near Unionville, Berks Co., Pa., and was a boy when he accompanied his father to Venango county, assisting him until his sixteenth year. In 1836 he was apprenticed to learn the trade of printer, and after serving a three years' term found occupation in that line at Butler, Pa., where he remained three years. At the end of this period, though little past his majority, he returned to Venango county and located at Franklin, where he and John W. Shugert began the publication of the *Democratic Arch*, being so engaged for about two and a half years. The venture is evidence that the self-reliance and confidence for which he is well remembered were manifested early. It is said that his total attendance at school would not exceed eighteen months, but he got so much out of his restricted privileges that he was far in advance of the average young man of his time in mental training, and his experience in the printing office was the very thing he wanted to give him opportunity for the practical application of his acquirements. One story of his school days is worth repeating. He was late so often returning home during his last term in school that his father investigated, and found that the teacher, being frequently unable to work the examples for his advanced class in arithmetic, had the boy remain to help him prepare the lesson for the next day. The Bleakley family have the files of the *Democratic Arch* from July, 1842, to October, 1843, the earliest continuous files in existence of any Venango county newspaper. Mr. Bleakley had a subsequent experience in the newspaper business, beginning in 1851, from which time for several years he was associated with the late A. P. Whitaker in the publication of the *Venango*



J. J. Gleasen



*Spectator.* But from the spring of 1844, when he engaged in the mercantile business at Franklin, he was occupied principally with commercial and financial enterprises, though he also acquired manufacturing and real estate interests of considerable magnitude. The variety of his investments, and his uniform success in their management, would indicate that he had the underlying principles of business at his fingers' ends, and also that he had a mind versatile beyond the ordinary in its ability to grasp the details of many subjects of diverse character.

Mr. Bleakley continued merchandising for about twenty years. He started modestly, but he had good methods and the assistance of a capable wife, and within a few years had accumulated a little money, which he put into real estate in Franklin and elsewhere. In 1849 he erected the building on Liberty street where almost twenty years later he opened the International Bank, one of the most substantial business structures in the city. For two years he filled the office of county treasurer, to which he was elected in 1851. He first entered the banking field in 1854, operating a private bank in connection with his mercantile business, and in 1864 assisted in organizing the First National Bank of Franklin, of which he was cashier from that time until 1867. In 1868 he founded the International Bank, which he continued until his death and in which his sons succeeded him. He was president until his death, and the institution became one of the best known financial establishments in the county under his management. In the spring of 1870 he started a banking house at Sharon, Pa., in the name of James Bleakley, Sons & Co. Meantime he also took on many other responsibilities, becoming associated with interests of all kinds in this vicinity, including a tannery, foundry, oil refinery and tinning establishment, real estate investments and various branches of the oil business, with which he was associated from 1859 until his death; he was one of the purchasers of the Galloway tract and outlot No. 8, famous for their production of Franklin lubrication oil. In addition to looking after his own affairs, he took a leading part in the administration of the government of Franklin, served in the council of the borough and later of the city, and was burgess for several terms. One of his special projects was the care and development of the public parks and other improvements for the beautifying of the city. Politically he was a Democrat in his early life, joining the Republican party in 1856, and support-

ing it to the end of his days. He died Oct. 3, 1883.

On Aug. 3, 1843, Mr. Bleakley married Elizabeth Dubbs, who was born in May, 1822, eldest daughter of Jacob Dubbs, who came to this section from Harrisburg, Pa., in 1824, and was a pioneer merchant in Franklin. Mr. Dubbs was born at Harrisburg, and died at Franklin in 1845. He was a wheelwright, and engaged at his trade until 1830, following merchandising the rest of his life. Of the seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Bleakley, Elizabeth, born Jan. 16, 1845, married T. W. Bridgham; Clara, born April 6, 1847, married Alexander McDowell, a banker of Sharon, Pa.; William James, born July 6, 1849, became a prominent business and public man of Franklin; Effie, born Nov. 26, 1851, married Dr. E. W. Moore, of Franklin; Orrin Dubbs is mentioned below; Harry was born Jan. 8, 1859; Edmund, born Oct. 30, 1860, married Bertha Legnard, of Waukegan, Illinois.

Orrin Dubbs Bleakley was born May 15, 1854, at Franklin, and there received his early education, attending the old academy. He pursued his higher studies at the University of Bonn, in Germany. When he entered business it was in his father's employ in the old International Bank, where he continued until his oil interests had attained such proportions that he felt they needed all his attention. This was in 1876, and for the next seven years he devoted himself to production, participating profitably in the Edenburg and Bradford booms. When he returned to Franklin in 1883 he bought his father's interest in the International Bank, he and his brothers continuing it until 1901, when he organized the Franklin Trust Company, of which he has since been president. The Franklin Trust Company has the heaviest capitalization of any banking institution in Franklin. Mr. Bleakley has also been interested in the First National Bank of Franklin, of which he has been vice president. He has been a stockholder in a number of important business and manufacturing concerns in Franklin and in Venango county, his excellent judgment as to the permanent value of any enterprise drawing support to any undertaking in which he has shown faith. Like his father he has gone into public life as an ardent Republican, and he was a delegate at large to the national convention which nominated Theodore Roosevelt for the presidency. Local institutions of all kinds have had the benefit of his hearty cooperation, and he serves as a trustee for the Institution for the Feeble Minded at Polk, this county. His re-

ligious connection is with the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Bleakley married Harriet Elizabeth Richardson, daughter of Richard Richardson, and they have had two children: Rollin Richardson, born July 6, 1886, and Wayne W., born Oct. 31, 1891.

Mr. Bleakley is an enthusiastic follower of the development of the science of aviation, and deserves to be classed with the pioneers among the non-professionals who have adopted that method of travel. In December, 1916, he won considerable attention by a trip from Philadelphia to Washington, D. C., made in his own machine, operated by Sergeant William Ocker of the United States Army Aviation Corps. While in Washington he took a number of his friends up for short flights.

**ROLLIN RICHARDSON BLEAKLEY**, eldest son of Orrin Dubbs Bleakley, was born and reared in Franklin, Pa., and continues to make his home in that city, where he is associated in business with his father as treasurer of the Franklin Trust Company. He is one of the leading members of the younger set and influential in various associations. On Oct. 6, 1909, he was married to Sarah Ruth Acheson, daughter of E. G. and Margaret Acheson, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., and they have three children: Rollin Richardson, Jr., born Sept. 29, 1911; O. D. II, born May 31, 1914; and Acheson G., born April 5, 1917.

**WAYNE W. BLEAKLEY** married Margaret Amberson, and they have one child, Wayne, Jr., born Jan. 29, 1915. He holds an army commission as first lieutenant.

**HOMER C. CRAWFORD**, of Jackson township, Venango county, has kept alive the associations of worth and substantial character which have attached to the name he bears throughout its connection with this region. His home place is one of the most interesting agricultural properties in the county, but its development has by no means occupied all of his attention, his broad interests embracing business responsibilities of varied nature. He is of Scotch-Irish extraction and a son of the late Dr. Robert Crawford, than whom there was no better known citizen of that part of Venango county lying around Cooperstown—as well as the adjoining sections of Mercer and Crawford counties—during the fifty-five years of his residence there. The reader is referred to other pages of this work for his biography.

Homer C. Crawford was born Sept. 26, 1853, at Cooperstown. He had excellent edu-

cational advantages, leaving the public schools to pursue his higher studies in Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., from which he was graduated in 1877. It was originally his intention to engage in the practice of medicine, but the condition of his health, and particularly of his eyesight, led him to change his course. Thirty years ago he came into possession of the three-hundred-acre farm which he is still operating, and which his father had owned for some years previously. Its transformation to an up-to-date dairy farm is a practical illustration of the possibilities of dairy farming in this section. The Coolspring Farm and Dairy property is now considered the best dairy farm in Venango county, and the arrangement and equipment, as well as system of operation, have called forth encomiums from dairy experts all over the State. Mr. Crawford's practical training made him decide early to lead, not to imitate, and being gifted with strong initiative he has not found it difficult to adhere to the policy he laid down originally. He is not overly conservative, but when he proceeds along any line he is guided in his course by actual knowledge, guesswork having no place in any of his operations. With such principles, it is not remarkable that he has attained a foremost place among dairymen. At the outset of his farming enterprise he began breeding Jersey cattle, and has become widely known for his success with them as well as with other valuable stock. The situation of his farm being ideal for dairy purposes he decided to make the most of it, and every natural advantage has been utilized fully, doubled in value by the application of modern ideas and machinery. The soil is fertile and watered by noted flowing springs which afford an abundant supply for dairy and house, centered at a capacious spring house, where the water from subterranean streams gushes from the living rock at a constant temperature of forty-eight degrees, affording model cooling facilities. The overflow is directed to the various buildings on the property, fresh running water being carried to each stall, and water power being available for the washing of machinery and other devices. No detail pertaining to the handling of milk in accordance with the strictest principles of hygiene has been neglected, including the care of the stock itself. A gas engine operates the compressed air milking machines, and also the electric dynamo, by which a complete lighting system in house and buildings is maintained. Everything is thoroughly tested before installation, hence there

is great economy in operation, both as to labor and equipment—a minimum of power with maximum results.

Mr. Crawford used the first commercial fertilizer employed in this section, and has demonstrated to his neighborhood the unquestionable value of using lime and phosphates on the local soils. From March, 1897, for more than ten years, he owned and published the "Pennsylvania Farmer," at Meadville, Pa., when they had some five thousand subscribers. Mr. Crawford's work has been sufficiently noteworthy to attract wide attention among experts, and has been recognized by his appointment to the State Board of Agriculture. However, he has never sought political preferment, on the contrary refusing such offers. The experience gained in his local business ventures has been valuable on a larger scale in other fields of enterprise. He has acquired outside interests of considerable magnitude, chief among which may be mentioned his connection with the Franklin Trust Company, one of the strongest financial institutions of Venango county. He helped organize that company, and has since served as vice president. For years he was president of the Light & Power Company at Durand, Wis., and he now holds a controlling interest in the waterworks system of Centerville, Iowa, which he has completely remodeled and rebuilt at a vast expenditure. When this property came into his possession it was in a rundown condition, and had been a failure financially. Mr. Crawford found plenty of opportunity for the exercise and application of the principles of industrial economy which he had formulated. He gave his time without limit to a personal study of the situation and the remedy, and concluded that the wisest course would be to spare no expense to develop the system into the best attainable. A new source of water supply was secured, with the result that it has become one of the most desirable public service properties in the State. The settling basin and filtering plant were designed and built after tiresome research and experiment. Their operation by automatic remote electrical control, as well as that of the pumping machinery, pumping the water and operating the entire plant, makes it the first of its kind to be installed. Its successful operation for several years marks a new era in the building and economical operation of water plants for small cities. Mr. Crawford considers the successful development of this plant one of his most creditable achievements. In his home State he has been a prosperous oil producer, both on

his own account and as a member of corporations, and the accuracy of his careful judgment has been repeatedly demonstrated. The record of his business life is one of success won by the fairest means.

Mr. Crawford married Mary E. Orlady, sister of Hon. George E. Orlady, justice of the Superior court of Pennsylvania.

PETER A. WILBERT, of Oil City, occupies a worthy place among the influential citizens of Venango county, having achieved a signal success in the practice of law and in business circles, with honorable public service also to his credit. His inherited interests, he has managed with such unquestionable efficiency that his prestige in material affairs no less than in his profession is based upon his merits. The name here has been associated with effective activity since his father's settlement in Venango county in 1862. Mr. Wilbert was born Feb. 14, 1872, at Petroleum Center, in Cornplanter township, this county, son of Henry Wilbert and grandson of Peter and Katharine Wilbert, who celebrated their golden wedding, Peter Wilbert dying a year later, in June, 1887.

Henry Wilbert, father of Peter A. Wilbert, was born Dec. 9, 1834, near Coblenz, Germany, was educated in his native land, and there began his apprenticeship to the mason's trade, completing it in Lewis county, N. Y., the region north of Rome, that State, where the family settled. He followed it for about ten years, and before settling in Pennsylvania spent some time on a preemption claim near Ashland, Wis., where he eked out an existence in the improvement of his land and trading with the Indians. The oil excitement in Venango county, Pa., attracted him hither in 1862, and he had his first experience in the oil business in 1864. He set boilers on the Tarr farm, and subsequently was engaged at Plumer, Pitt-hole and Petroleum Center, where he lived for many years. He commenced trading in oil well supplies and hardware at Petroleum Center in 1879, and besides conducting a thriving trade in that line became one of the large land owners and leading oil operators at that point. The town once had a population of ten thousand, but like many communities in the oil regions declined, and as others left their holdings Mr. Wilbert kept buying and adding to his, concentrating his interests in that field with great success. His first location there was on the old Egbert farm. Later he bought a half interest in the old Central Petroleum Company's farm, to which in time he acquired com-

plete title, that property being still owned in the family and producing oil in paying quantities. He came into possession of about five hundred acres of land in the county, his holdings including the site of Petroleum Center, and his operations as a producer became quite extensive. His death occurred Oct. 21, 1900.

In November, 1865, Mr. Wilbert married Barbara Strahl, a native of the same region in Germany from which he came, born Dec. 4, 1846, and three years old when brought to this country by her parents, who settled at Erie, Pa. She died Aug. 10, 1889, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at Erie, she and her husband having been members of the Catholic Church. He was also affiliated with the C. M. B. A. Of the nine children born to them, Carrie, Mrs. David Tracy, lives at Petroleum Center, Pa.; John is established at Chicago, Ill., in the employ of the Midland Petroleum Company; Elizabeth is the wife of J. O. Howard, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, also interested in oil; Peter A.; Mary, Sister Pierre, is a teacher in St. Joseph's School at Titusville, Pa.; Margaret, Sister Alexia, is in Mercy Hospital at Pittsburgh; Charles, of Petroleum Center, is engaged as a timber dealer; Barbara is the wife of H. B. Fitzgerald, of Buffalo, N. Y., formerly in the Standard Oil office at Oil City and for a time engaged in office work in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; Henry Lawrence is engaged in office work at Titusville, Pennsylvania.

Peter A. Wilbert was allowed excellent educational advantages. After completing the elementary course he was a student for three years in the colleges of St. Bonaventure, Allegany, N. Y., and St. Vincent, at Latrobe, Pa., in Westmoreland county. Upon his return home he took up the study of law with W. J. Breene, at Oil City, was admitted to the bar in 1895, and has since been engaged in the general practice of law, for three years in partnership with his preceptor as Breene and Wilbert. With that exception he has followed the profession on his own account. From 1910 to 1914 he served as solicitor of Oil City, and most of the city paving was done during that period, his participation in such improvements earning him a reputation for constructive labors in the administration of local affairs which reflects very favorably upon his public spirit. He looks after the management of the oil production on his father's old property at Petroleum Center, where there are now about forty producing wells, and has shown versatile ability in judicious attention to the numerous details of his responsibilities. He is a trustee

of St. Stephen's Catholic Church. Mr. Wilbert is a Democrat in political association, and has been an able worker in the party, once serving as county chairman.

In October, 1904, Mr. Wilbert was married, at Brooklyn, N. Y., to Maud L. Kennedy, daughter of Harry Kennedy, the well known ventriloquist and writer of popular songs and herself a vocalist of notable attainments and careful training. She sang in "Parsifal" at Sousa concerts, has taken parts in the production of various operas, and is a leader in musical circles at Oil City, having been a welcome addition to local talent and an appreciated performer at entertainments in the city and county. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert, namely: Mary Ellen, Barbara Irene, Elizabeth and Madeline. Their home in Oil City is at No. 125 Wyllis street.

FRANKLIN H. JOHNSTON, M. D., a resident of the city of Franklin for almost twenty-five years before his death and identified throughout that period with various phases of its business, social and public life, was also a representative of one of the oldest families of Venango county, the first permanent settlers in Canal township. There have been several generations of Johnstons here since Hugh Johnston brought his large family from eastern Pennsylvania in 1797, and they have filled a creditable place in local history, winning the material success which attends industry intelligently directed and the honorable standing of those whose influence may be depended upon to promote development. Dr. Johnston's substantial business qualities, and the fine public spirit he displayed in everything affecting the welfare of Franklin and its citizens, proclaimed him a typical and worthy member of the fine stock from which he came.

Hugh Johnston was born in Ireland, and came to America in the Colonial period, for a number of years making his home in Huntingdon county, Pa., whence he came to Venango county in 1797 with his large family of five sons and four daughters. He settled on what afterward became known as the Andrew Service place, about one mile east of Utica, in what is now Canal township. Among his sons were Alexander, Robert and James, the first named being the progenitor of the line we are tracing. Robert settled on what became the Hasson homestead about two miles east of Utica, and James lived with his father until the latter's death, when he succeeded to the ownership of the home farm. Hugh

Johnston died early in the nineteenth century, and was buried in the Johnston graveyard, the first cemetery in the township.

Alexander Johnston, Sr., son of Hugh, came to this county with his father and lived in Canal township until his death, in 1844. He settled near his father, half a mile up the creek, and prospered in his undertakings, being a capable business man and accumulating valuable real estate. We find the names of his children given as Anthony, Samuel, Hugh, Alexander, Moses, Margaret, Mary, Jane and Martha.

Anthony Johnston, son of Alexander Johnston, Sr., married Polly Ray, daughter of Thomas Ray, and they reared four children, namely: Alexander; Thomas; Mrs. Sally Douglass, and Mrs. Polly Wilcox. To his second marriage, with Polly Elderkin, were born eight children.

Alexander Johnston, Jr., son of Anthony and Polly (Ray) Johnston, was born in Canal township, Aug. 4, 1818, and in his boyhood passed his time in the duties of the home farm and attendance at the local country schools as opportunity afforded. When he reached his majority he struck out on his own account, buying a tract of woodland which he cleared and put under cultivation, and with this as a nucleus he became a well-to-do landowner and farmer, having the remarkable record of clearing over three hundred acres in Canal township alone. He also dealt in lands advantageously, making judicious purchases which he disposed of profitably, some of the most valuable property in the township coming into his possession. In 1876 he made a permanent settlement on a fine place near Hannaville, one of the best improved farms in the county. He was not only active in business but also in all the important affairs of his day, and particularly liberal in his support of religious work, having from early manhood been a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and zealous in its behalf. He filled a number of official positions in the denomination, and not only helped its local organizations but also contributed to the erection of churches all over the country. He was opposed to secret societies, and held strong convictions on all questions of large importance, as his political affiliations would indicate. Originally he was an abolitionist, later a Republican, and eventually a Prohibitionist.

In 1841 Mr. Johnston married Delia A. Hammond, daughter of Samuel Hammond, of New York, and eight children were born to them: Franklin H.; Melvin A., who was a

soldier in the Civil war; Mrs. Elmeretta Fleming; Samuel W.; Anthony Lee; Delia A.; Mrs. Samuel D. Brown; John Wesley; and Lewis S. The mother died Oct. 5, 1885, and on Oct. 7, 1886, Mr. Johnston married (second) Mrs. Laura L. Spear, widow of Rev. James Spear. One child, Laura Zella, was born to this marriage. Mrs. Johnston had nine children by her first union. Mr. Johnston died in November, 1893. Mrs. Johnston lives in Oil City.

Franklin H. Johnston was born Dec. 20, 1841, in Canal township, where he remained until his enlistment for service in the Civil war, having such educational advantages as the neighborhood afforded. Becoming a corporal in Company G, 63d Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was recruited by Gen. Alexander Hays, he served his term and received an honorable discharge. Upon his return to his home county he turned to school teaching, taking his first school at Cooperstown in 1864, and he continued to follow this profession while engaged in the study of medicine. After his graduation from medical college he practiced at Cooperstown for a time with Dr. Robert Crawford, later following his profession successfully at Cochranton and Utica, and also in Butler county. Meantime he had been putting in his spare hours studying shorthand, being one of the first experts in this locality, and in 1882 he came to Franklin to take the position of stenographer with Joseph C. Sibley, president of the Signal Oil Company. He was so engaged until 1885, and during six months of that period also acted as Franklin correspondent of the *Oil City Derrick*. In 1885 he was promoted to the position of secretary of the Galena Oil Company, and at the same time became private secretary to Gen. Charles Miller, with whom he continued to be associated until his death, a record which carries the best comment upon the value of his services which could be made. In his sudden death, from apoplexy, on the morning of March 26, 1906, General Miller felt that he lost a valued friend as well as a competent, devoted assistant. During his twenty years in this incumbency he had the details of the Galena-Signal and other allied enterprises at his fingers' ends, and he also acquired various interests of his own, being a director of the General Manifold & Printing Co. of Franklin, of the Dale & Reed Company of Franklin and of the Franklin Manufacturing Company (manufacturers of asbestos and asbestos novelties), and also treasurer of the latter. Few men achieve more popularity

than Dr. Johnston enjoyed among his daily associates.

Dr. Johnston is remembered as much for his social services in Franklin as for his business connections. He was a leading member of the First Baptist Church of Franklin, and one of the deacons of that congregation. For several years he was a trustee of the State Hospital for the Insane at North Warren. He was a member of the Franklin school board for one term, but his work in behalf of public education extended over a much longer period, and he was especially interested in the success of the Miller Night School, which had the benefit of his advice and assistance for some fifteen years before his death, his labors in the shorthand department being particularly noteworthy. By reason of his Civil war service Dr. Johnston was a member of the G. A. R., belonging to W. B. Mays Post, No. 220, of Franklin, and serving several years as secretary of the Northwestern Association, Department of Pennsylvania. He is buried in Oakwood cemetery in Canal township.

On Aug. 29, 1865, Dr. Johnston married Mary Curtis, of Cochranton, Pa., who survived him with seven children, all residents of Franklin, namely: Edward B.; Charles; Frank Alfred; Cecil Wallace; Grace, Mrs. Robert Harris; Hattie, Mrs. Arthur O'Neil, and Maud, Mrs. Fred R. DeWoody.

CECIL WALLACE JOHNSTON, son of Dr. Franklin H. Johnston, was born in Franklin Oct. 4, 1886, and received his preliminary education in the public schools of the city. Graduating from the Franklin high school in 1905, he studied another year at State College before entering the law school of George Washington University at Washington, D. C. He also read law in the office of J. S. Carmichael, of Franklin, for two years. But his time has been spent chiefly in the newspaper business, which he followed for a while in Denver, Colo., later at Cleveland, Ohio, whence he returned to his native county. Here he was associated for about two years with the Oil City *Derrick*, and also for a time with the Sharon *Telegraph*, a Mercer county paper, before becoming a member of the editorial staff of *The Evening News* at Franklin some five years ago. Later he severed that connection to assume the important position of managing editor of the Titusville *Morning Herald*, which he accepted in October, 1917, entering upon his new duties about Nov. 10th. His new responsibilities marked well deserved advancement for this talented young newspaper man. In the spring

of 1918, as Mr. Johnston was about to leave Titusville to accept a position on the city desk of the Pittsburgh *Chronicle Telegraph*, he received a call to return to Franklin as news editor of the *Venango Daily Herald* under James B. Borland, as managing editor. He had been on the *Herald* but two months when he was asked to accept the place of chief clerk of the local exemption board for the duration of the war, entering on these duties early in July.

Mr. Johnston's gifts have been well employed, as his high standing in his chosen calling indicates. As a correspondent he is credited with having few equals in this section, and he became widely known to the public through his work as staff correspondent of the *News* when the 16th Regiment went to the Mexican border in 1916. He is well known socially, affiliating with the Sigma Chi fraternity of State College, and the legal fraternity Phi Delta Phi of George Washington University. He married Alice Irwin, daughter of Levi H. Irwin, of Rouseville, Venango county.

BENJAMIN CORWIN (deceased) was an honor to his community during a residence of almost half a century at Pleasantville, where he made his home from the time of his arrival in Venango county. He sustained close relations with its history and progress in a life sufficiently varied to indicate the possession of versatile ability, as well as energy of character and attentiveness both where his own interests were concerned and those pertaining to the general good. His breadth and foresight, united to alert business qualities, made him one of the most valuable forces for advancement in the borough, and the sincerity of his views on public questions was proved in his official services, which he performed conscientiously, loyally devoting his best thought and executive talents to rendering a good account of himself in the trusts reposed in him by his fellow citizens.

Mr. Corwin came of an old family of English extraction founded in Connecticut during the period of its early settlement, about 1635, his branch removing to Orange county, N. Y., prior to the Revolution. The name was originally Curvine, and an old castle belonging to the family still stands in England. His parents, William and Lydia Ann (Smith) Corwin, were natives of Orange county and died there in their old home at Mount Hope. They had a family of six children. Benjamin Corwin was born March 6, 1838, at Mount Hope, which is near Middletown, Orange

county, was reared on the homestead farm and educated in the schools of the vicinity, later serving a four years' apprenticeship to the tinner's trade. He learned it thoroughly, beginning to work at the rather meager wages of a dollar a week, with board and clothing, and receiving more as his usefulness increased. Being ambitious he started a place of his own as soon as possible, having a shop and hardware store at Warwick, in his native county, for three years before he decided to come to Pennsylvania. Selling out, he proceeded to Venango county, walking from Titusville, and first inspecting a location at Pithole, but changed in favor of Pleasantville, where he commenced business on a small scale at once, in March, 1865. The establishment then founded has been operated without interruption to the present time, being still conducted under his name, and it is now one of the oldest business houses in the county in point of continuous operation. His stock consisted of general hardware and oil well supplies, and he worked at the bench himself besides employing others as patronage grew, all tinware being then made by hand. It was not long before he yielded to his desire to try his fortune in oil lands, taking an interest in an oil lease which proved a disastrous investment, Mr. Corwin losing every cent he owned. With the indulgence of dealers of whom he bought he was enabled to continue the hardware line, however, and within a comparatively short time he found himself literally on the highway to fortune. His early experience had only deepened his determination to get into the oil game, and as soon as he could stand the necessary investment he again secured a lease and began operations, this time meeting with such success that he never again was out of the production line. For over thirty years his efforts were centered on the Clark farm, where he obtained a lease that included producing wells some of which are yet yielding a daily average equal to that of fifty years ago. He was frequently in partnership with others, but always operated in the local field, which he felt afforded sure and steady returns, even if no great strikes were made. Though he continued his mercantile establishment he gave his oil interests a large share of his personal attention, most of his wells being sunk under his direct supervision. His faith in this section was based on its agricultural possibilities as well as the oil production, and its desirability as a residence locality. His readiness to make local investments never slackened, and because of his good judgment was a great influence

in sustaining the confidence of many other successful oil men in this region. Mr. Corwin also had valuable timber interests. In order to bring local business opportunities systematically before the public, he established the *Commercial Record* in 1887, published semi-monthly at Pleasantville and really intended as a publicity medium to arouse activity among men seeking profitable investments. He did all in his power to obtain a favorable administration of public affairs in the borough, and as burgess for one year (elected in 1879) and councilman for two years (1884 and 1887) took a direct part in establishing the government on a sound basis, both for the protection of local interests and the attraction of solid business enterprises. Politically he was a Democrat.

Mr. Corwin took delight in the companionships formed in church and social associations, and was as faithful to his obligations in those relations as he was in material things. He was one of the founders of the Pleasantville Presbyterian Church and was ordained an elder therein Oct. 5, 1867, continuing to hold official position throughout his life. Ever thoughtful and considerate of others, all he possessed was at the service of his fellow men, his principal gratification in his worldly success being the opportunity it afforded him of helping those in need. He was constantly doing quiet acts of benevolence, many of which were not even known to his family until after he passed away. Though he had little time for recreation Mr. Corwin never lost his pleasure in fishing, seldom missing an excursion at the opening of the season and always coming home with a good catch. Fraternally he was a Mason and a member of the Royal Arcanum.

In 1864 Mr. Corwin married Sarah V. Dolson, of Orange county, N. Y., who died in October, 1866. On June 16, 1868, he married (second) Martha A. Beebe, the wedding taking place in the house where Mrs. Corwin was born March 7, 1846, and where all their married life was spent, Mr. Corwin dying there Dec. 26, 1913, his widow Jan. 12, 1918. It is now occupied by their daughter, the only child of their union, Martha Helen, who was married June 16, 1908, to Joseph E. Oyer.

E. R. BEEBE, father of Mrs. Martha A. (Beebe) Corwin, was an early resident of Pleasantville, erecting the old home mentioned about 1828, when he had to cut out trees to get a building site. It stands as a monument to the thorough workmanship then considered standard by good mechanics. It has ever been a popular social center in the borough, where

the Beebes and Corwins have had many warm friends, contributing generously by their hospitality to the pleasant life for which the place has long been famous. Here Mr. Beebe brought his bride, Louisa (Watkins), of Boston, and they lived and died there, Mr. Beebe reaching the age of ninety-three years. They had three daughters, of whom Mrs. Corwin has already been mentioned; Helen married Dr. William Gamble, of Mosiertown, Pa., one of the ablest physicians in Pennsylvania, and has two sons, Dr. William Gamble, of Little Cooley, Pa., and Dr. Bruce Gamble, of Meadville; Jane married Samuel Hatch and died at Toledo, Ohio.

JACOB SHEASLEY, of Franklin, has done his full share to uphold the traditions attaching to the name he bears in this section of Pennsylvania, being one of its leading business men, and his father having been foremost in furthering the ambitious enterprises of his time. He and his son Charles H. Sheasley have been successful oil producers for many years, and have acquired other interests equally as valuable to themselves and important to the development of the region. Without exaggeration, it may be said that they have contributed more than the average to its general prosperity, in the way of introducing new activities or maintaining those already in existence.

Christopher Sheasley, the father of Jacob Sheasley, lived and died in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania. He was a very extensive contractor and builder, largely engaged in railroad construction, having built many miles of roadbed, including the Northern Central, a branch of the Pennsylvania lines from Harrisburg to Millersburg, and the Lebanon Valley railroad. He was also the owner of two large farms in Dauphin county, where he died at the age of seventy years. He married Lydia Gilbert, who was of English descent.

Jacob Sheasley, son of Christopher, was born June 9, 1834, at Millersburg, Dauphin county, and was reared in that county. He was early given the opportunity of acquiring valuable business experience, when a young man helping his father in contracting. Later he went with his cousin, a Mr. Gilbert, being employed in his store, after which he engaged in the wholesale notion trade, making several trips through Clearfield county and also to Franklin. He followed this line for about five years, and was next engaged in the lumber business, having purchased a tract of timber in Clearfield county, near Punxsutawney, Pa.

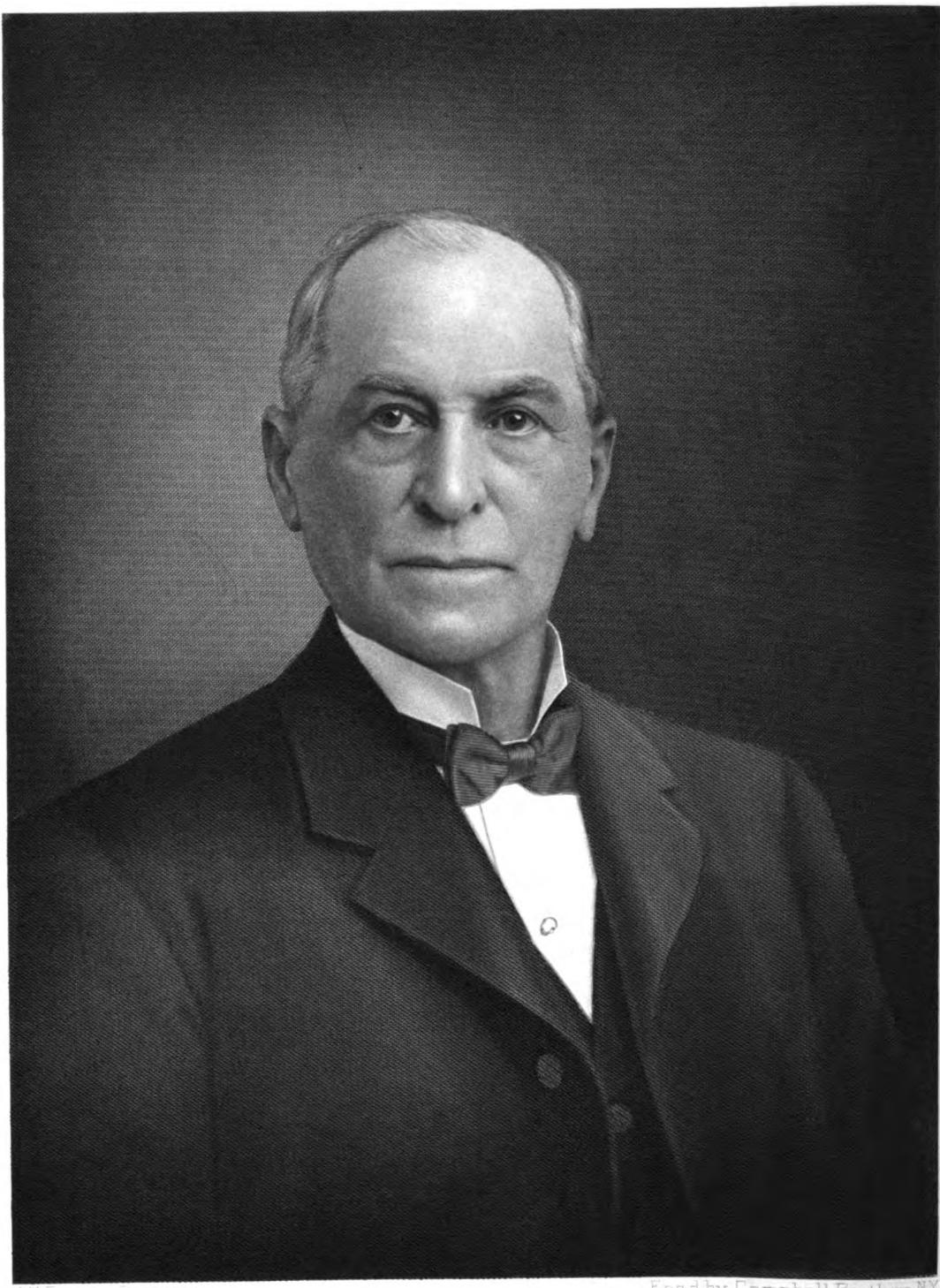
After about four years devoted to this work he went to Mercer county, where he was established at Greenville for a time. In 1862 he came to Franklin, Pa., but at that time made only a short stay, during which he was engaged in hotel-keeping. His next venture was in the coal business, hauling coal up Oil creek, and he kept several teams busy. He has since given a large part of his time and attention to the oil business, and has drilled many profitable wells; he was one of the first to open up the Franklin Heavy oil, the finest oil on the market. Besides his interests in this line Mr. Sheasley has several farms, one of which comprises 650 acres of valuable land in Sugarcreek township, Venango county, where he conducts a fine dairy in addition to general farming. He is a director of the Franklin Trust Company, one of the leading banking institutions in this section, and to-day occupies a substantial position among the most prosperous business men of Franklin. He has taken a public-spirited interest in local affairs, and at one time was a member of the city council. Mr. Sheasley is a well known Mason, affiliating with all the Masonic bodies at Franklin and with the consistory at Pittsburgh.

Mr. Sheasley married (first) Sarah Rutter, daughter of George Rutter, and six children were born to them, namely: Emma, now the wife of Oscar Burns, of Franklin, Pa.; George; Thomas; Charles H.; Lulu, and Margaret. By his second marriage he had one son, Jacob. His third union was to Mrs. Priscilla A. Kline, of Washington, Pennsylvania.

CHARLES H. SHEASLEY, son of Jacob and Sarah (Rutter) Sheasley, was born in Mercer county, Pa., Jan. 22, 1864. He was given excellent educational advantages, first attending the public schools of Franklin, later Lititz Academy, in Lancaster county, and taking his higher course at Andover, Mass. For a time he was engaged in the lumber business, until he entered the Lambertton Savings Bank at Franklin, where he was employed for a period of seven years. Then he went into the oil business, with which he has since been connected, not only as an extensive producer, but also as president of the Producers' Supply Company of Franklin, which operates a large plant. The company deals in hardware, and carries on the manufacture of oil well supplies, also dealing in that line. Mr. Sheasley was one of the owners and vice president of the Bessemer Refining Company, of Titusville, Pa., whose oil was piped to Titusville. Later this was sold to the Crew Levick Company, of Philadelphia, Pa., refiners and exporters,

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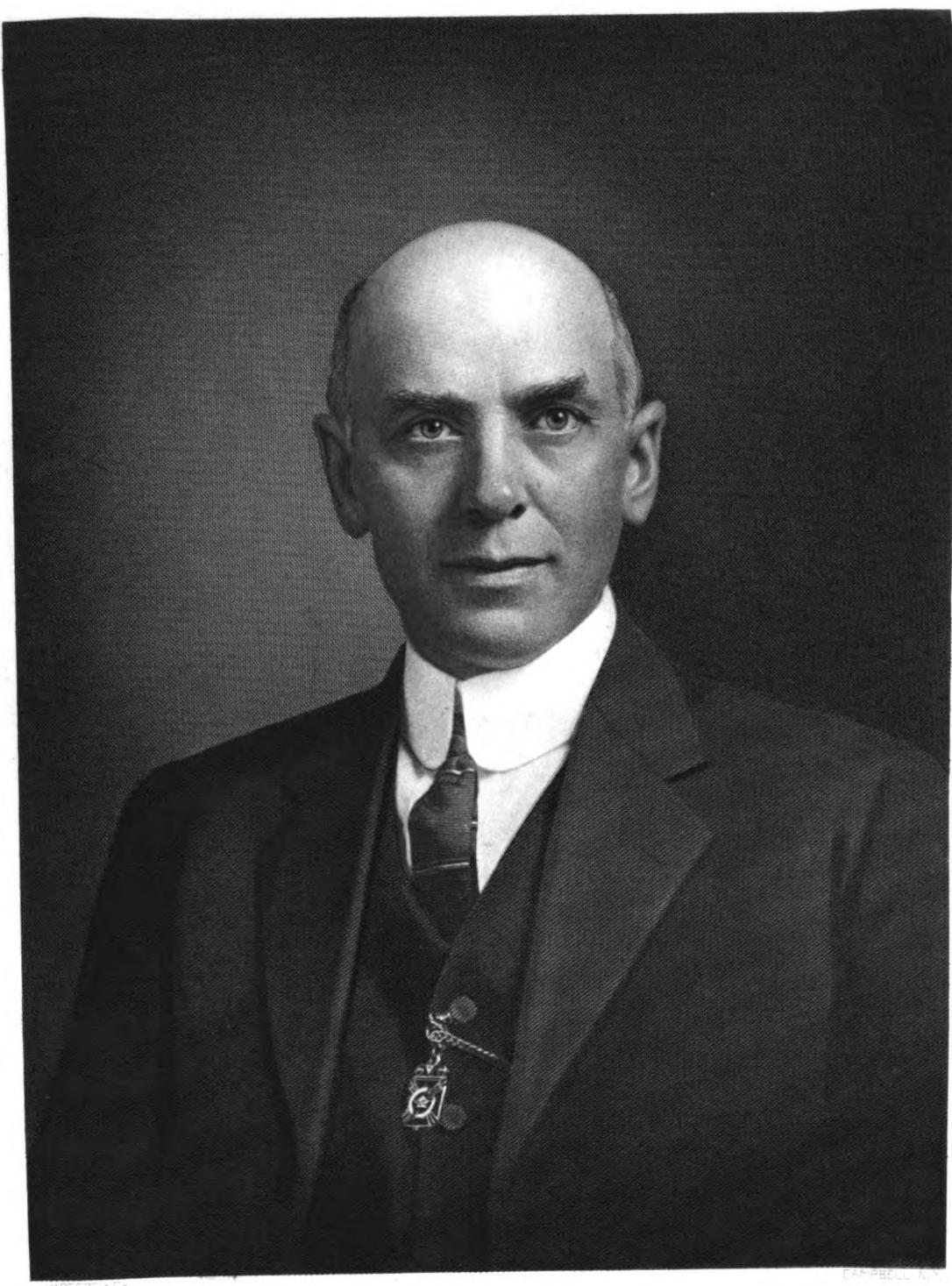
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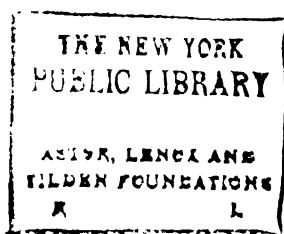
Jacob Sheasby



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O.H. Shasley



owned by the Cities Service Company of New York, and Mr. Sheasley is a director of same. He is also a director and general manager of the Macy Engineering Company, manufacturers of aircraft controls and stabilizers, whose plant is located at Franklin, Pa.; secretary and treasurer of the Venango Printing Company, printers, and publishers of the *Venango Daily Herald*, and in view of these several connections may be considered one of the influential business men of the county. Like his father he is a high Mason, holding membership in Myrtle Lodge No. 316, F. & A. M.; Venango Chapter No. 211, R. A. M.; Keystone Council No. 42, R. & S. M.; Franklin Commandery No. 44, K. T.; Pittsburgh Consistory, thirty-second degree; and Zem Zem Temple, at Erie, Pa. Socially he belongs to the Elks and to the Franklin Club.

Mr. Sheasley was united in marriage with Eva Zeigler, of Franklin, and they have one daughter, Virginia.

DR. AUGUST CARL MORCK, of Oil City, has been recognized as deserving of a place among the worthy citizens of Venango county throughout the period of his residence here. His professional reputation was indeed well established long before he settled in that city, where he has not only added continually to it by scientific work of unquestioned service to mankind in general, but also shown the breadth of his personal character in loyal cooperation with the best interests of his adopted place, whatever form that might take. He has been offered the highest public honors within the gift of his fellow citizens, and though he has not felt able to accept the responsibilities involved has nevertheless been appreciative of the compliment conveyed and ready to serve them to any extent in his private capacity.

Dr. Morck came to this section from Warren, Pa., where he was born Nov. 16, 1859. He is of German parentage, his father, August Detrich Morck, having been born Aug. 13, 1820, in Dortmund, Westphalia, and his mother, Sophia Albertine Kerberger, on Jan. 9, 1825, in Bendorf, Prussia. They were the parents of six children, namely: Wilhelmine Frederike, born Oct. 20, 1847, died in infancy; Friedrich Heinrich, born Jan. 31, 1850, married Isabel Heitzel and (second) Bertha Keferstein, having one child by the first union, Gertrude, and three by the second, Bertha, Helen and Frances; Albert Wilhelm, born Sept. 30, 1851, is deceased; Eliza Hermine, born Aug. 30, 1853, married P. J. Bayer and had four children, Sophia, Carl, Walter and William; Aug-

ust Carl is next in the family; Herman, born April 25, 1870, died in infancy.

August Carl Morck received his preliminary education in the public schools of Warren, subsequently studying in New York and Philadelphia. Having early decided to devote himself to the science of optics, he took a course in optometry in the Pulte Medical College at Cincinnati, Ohio, which he attended for three years, later, as opportunity offered, taking advanced work in the Butler School of Optics (1887) and the Philadelphia Optical College. Dr. Morck had commenced business life in the jewelry trade at Warren, in partnership with his brother, but soon becoming interested in what has since been his specialty applied all his energies to perfecting himself in its requirements, and pursued his studies with the thoroughness characteristic of his race, with the result that he is now one of the foremost authorities in his line in western Pennsylvania. He has earned the most cherished reward of the scientific student and investigator, recognition by his professional associates, who may be assumed to be the best judges of his achievements. For an exhaustive article on ophthalmology the Academie Parisienne des Inventeurs conferred a life membership on him; and three types of bi-focal glasses which he has invented are in high favor among opticians, the perfection bi-focal, lenticular bi-focal and opifix bi-focal. In 1886 he removed to Oil City, where he has since been established, doing business under the name of the Morck Optical Company, which enjoys the patronage of the most intelligent element in this entire section.

Dr. Morck has had the confidence of his fellow men in the everyday affairs of life as well as in his own particular field. While at Warren he took a prominent part in the administration of the municipal government, having served a number of years as a member of the council and one term as mayor, to which office he was elected in 1889. On two occasions he received the nomination for membership in the State Legislature, but declined because of his professional associations, and he has been similarly honored since he came to Oil City, declining here also. He is a thirty-second degree Mason.

Dr. Morck married Anne Lee Chambers, daughter of Wesley Chambers, who is fully mentioned elsewhere in this work. Of their six children, Carl A. died in infancy; Cordelia is the wife of Lieut. Benjamin H. Brinton, U. S. A.; Anita died in infancy; Wesley Chambers, Augusta Fisher and William Allen are in school.

MAJOR JOHN M. REED has been in every sense a leading resident of Oil City. As an official he has served the city ably and received the highest honors within the gift of his fellow citizens, but he has been just as zealous in its interest in his private capacity, never allowing selfish considerations to stand in the way of the public good.

Major Reed was born Nov. 9, 1855, at Mansfield, Ohio, but most of his life has been spent at Oil City, where he has lived since 1863. He attended its grammar and high schools, and commenced work as a youth in the office of the Wholesale Coal Company, where he was employed from 1872 to 1879. In the latter year he entered the Oil City Oil Exchange, and in 1888 formed the business partnership with George H. Cornwall which still exists in the New York Stock Exchange. As a business man he has been one of the most progressive spirits in the city, though no less so in his public associations. In 1898 he entered the military service for the Spanish-American war, through which he served with the rank of major, and in 1899 he was elected mayor of Oil City, serving a four years' term with distinguished ability and fidelity to his obligations. He has also served a term on the city school board.

Major Reed has cooperated in making the local social organizations a success, being prominent in the membership of the Ivy Club, Venango Club, Wanango Club and Oil City Boat Club. In 1884 he married Ella McConnell, and they have two children, Charles C. and Margaret. The son holds the degree of civil engineer and is practicing his profession.

SHADRACH SIMCOX (deceased) was in his day one of the best known oil operators in the Pennsylvania fields, where he was a pioneer prospector and a leading figure in the development which made the region known for its riches. He typified in his own career the fluctuations of fortune which attended many of the most noted exploiters, but his initiative, confidence, undaunted ambition and faith in the possibilities of the locality afforded incentive to so many investors that much of the capital used in the opening of oil lands here was attracted through the success of his activities. His breadth of vision enabled him to comprehend the greatness of the promise held by the new industry, and he had the courage to undertake its realization, and he was ready to meet trials and shoulder responsibilities in order to attain his goal. Honest in business and in all other relations of life, he maintained the strictest integrity through all the vicissitudes of his

experiences, and he expected the same of others. In business as in his personal associations he was considerate, kindly and helpful, one who could be counted on to give advice or material assistance when necessary, and he held the affectionate esteem of all who had the opportunity to take the measure of his character from many worthy deeds of his inspired solely by goodness of heart. His closing years were spent in retirement at Bullion, in Clinton township, Venango county.

Mr. Simcox was a native of the county, born in the city of Franklin, at what is now the corner of Eleventh and Liberty streets, Jan. 14, 1831, son of John and Lydia (Adams) Simcox, and grandson of Shadrach Simcox, who served in the war of 1812. His parents were among the early settlers in the county. They established their home at the location above mentioned, on the lot now owned and occupied by John A. Wilson, and the father followed his trade of blacksmith. But he died when his son Shadrach was a boy, and the child was reared by his aunt, Patty Simcox, who became Mrs. William Adams, of Raymilton; she lived to be past eighty, surviving her nephew. He was also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Margaret McMullin, of Franklin, and Mrs. Arthur B. Seaton, of Mercer; and by a half-brother and a half-sister, William Seaton and Mrs. Emma Taylor, of Polk.

Shadrach Simcox commenced work early, serving an apprenticeship to the trade of cabinetmaker with James Black at Anandale, Butler Co., Pa., and receiving mechanical training that proved very valuable to him later in life. Returning to Venango county after he finished his time with Mr. Black, he settled here, and when oil was discovered was among the first to begin drilling and producing. He was associated with his cousin, H. M. Simcox, later of Springfield, Mo., and they were among the first to take oil by boat to Pittsburgh. This was before the close of the Civil war. Owning the farm on which the village of Summit City was located, in 1876, when the oil excitement in that neighborhood was at its height, he became rich on the great yields of his land, and was not only an extensive producer, but also established an oil refinery at Raymilton. Within a year after it was founded Summit City had a population of one thousand and one hundred and eighty buildings, and the post-office of Bullion was established to accommodate its residents. Mr. Simcox was prosperously engaged in the production of oil for many years, as well as in the cultivation of his farm and the raising of fine horses, cattle and sheep, but eventually he suffered financial reverses

through unfortunate investments and the loss of his refinery, which was annexed by the Standard Oil Company. In his later years, as in his prime, Mr. Simcox showed great strength of character, by the manner in which he faced his losses. His disposition did not change with his fortunes, but remained gentle and gracious always, his patience never giving way even under great physical suffering. But he did not long survive the shock of his son's death, and he passed away at Bullion, where he had been living with his children, Feb. 27, 1901, after several months' illness. He was buried at Clintonville.

Mr. Simcox married Sarah Anderson, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Pollock) Anderson, of Scrubgrass township, this county, where her father located in 1814, on the farm later occupied by his son James; he died in 1842. Mr. and Mrs. Simcox became the parents of eight children, two of whom preceded their father to the grave. Bertha and Rev. Frank Simcox, the latter a Presbyterian missionary in China, where he was murdered with his family, wife and three children, by Boxers at Pao Ting Fu in July, 1900. Of the rest, Mrs. A. W. Raymond makes her home at Grove City, Pa.; John is a resident of New Castle, Pa.; Mrs. H. Austin, L. B. and Horace live at Bullion; Mrs. Alice Echols lives in Chicago, Ill. The mother of these died at the old home at Bullion, and Mr. Simcox married (second) Mrs. Elmira Jennie (Sutton) DeWoody, who survives him with their only child, Anna, their home in Franklin being at No. 224 Atlantic avenue. The daughter is now secretary for S. P. Anderson, representative and manager of the State Workmen's Insurance Fund office for the Seventh district of Pennsylvania, located in Franklin. She received her appointment to this important position in 1918, from the governor.

Mrs. Simcox is a descendant of an old Irwin township family, whose members from the early days have been noted for their progressive business tendencies, and their property holdings are among the most valuable in this section. Her grandparents, Reuben and Ann (Armstrong) Sutton, came hither from Hartford county, Md., where the Armstrongs were slaveholders in the old days. They removed to Pennsylvania when their son, Reuben (father of Mrs. Simcox), was a boy of eight years, and made a settlement in the southern part of Venango county, in Irwin township, one mile west of the present home of Valentine S. Sutton, Mrs. Simcox's brother. Reuben Sutton (Sr.) made a good farm there before he died,

though he only lived to reach middle age. His wife outlived him many years, passing away at the age of eighty-five. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters: Solomon, a farmer, and later an oil operator, died in this county when past eighty years of age; he married Alma A. Knowlton, and they had nine children, of whom only one now lives in Venango county, Mrs. David R. Eakin, of Bullion. Reuben is mentioned below. Elizabeth married a man named Reuben Sutton (no relative) and died in Irwin township at the age of seventy-five years. Mary married William Bigler and removed to Meigs county, Ohio, where she died at an advanced age.

Reuben Sutton (Jr.) was born in Maryland and spent his early years there. Coming to this region when it was unsettled, he was deprived of many of the advantages to be had in older communities, but his natural ability made up for any defects of youthful opportunity and he became one of the most successful men of his generation. His self-reliance and courage were no doubt strengthened by the practical training which he received and the necessity for assuming responsibility when still very young. He was but twenty-two years old when he bought the property now included in the farm of his son Valentine S. Sutton, about 1842, and there he lived and worked for almost forty years, making many valuable improvements on his tract, which comprised three hundred and fifty acres. In 1867 he built the brick residence which is still standing there. During the latter seventies he removed to Clinton township, this county, locating near the Foster schoolhouse, and there made heavy investments in oil lands, acquiring the ownership of twenty-five hundred acres of such holdings and turning his attention largely to the production of oil. In this as in his other ventures he was very prosperous, earning his good fortune by diligent attention to all his interests, which became very extensive. His landed property in Irwin and Clinton townships alone reached a total of about three thousand acres, and he also owned farms in various other sections of the country, yielding him an income which enabled him to engage in remunerative financial operations. By uprightness in all his business transactions he gained and held the confidence of all who had dealings with him, exemplifying his fine Christian character in every relation of life, and particularly in his generosity to those who needed it. He served his fellow citizens in a number of minor public offices, being well-fitted to handle such matters efficiently. In politics

he was originally a Democrat, later becoming a Republican.

When twenty-five years old Mr. Sutton married Mary Smith, daughter of Valentine Smith. She was a native of York county, Pa., three years his junior, and died at the age of sixty, at Bullion, this county. There Mr. Sutton's death also occurred, Jan. 14, 1892, when he was aged seventy-two years, six months, twenty-two days. Mr. and Mrs. Sutton were among the influential members of the Pleasantview M. E. Church, which was located near their farm, and they are buried in the Pleasantview cemetery. Of their six children, Jerome, who was a farmer in Irwin township, died at the age of sixty years. Sarah Jalaina is the wife of Sylvester Welton, a farmer of Victory township, this county. Elmira Jane (Jennie) is the widow of Shadrach Simcox, of Franklin. Mary Ann is the wife of George A. Blair, of Clintonville. John Homer died at Grove City, Pa. Valentine Smith is an extensive farmer and landowner of Irwin township.

Elmira Jane Sutton was married Dec. 23, 1873, to Wesley DeWoody (son of William DeWoody), who followed farming in Venango county, in Sandycreek township and later in Clinton township, where he died March 3, 1882, at the age of twenty-eight years. They had two sons, Homer L. and William R., both of whom reside in Clinton township, where they have been very successful in the management of their own and their mother's interests. Their joint holdings amount to six hundred and fifty acres, rich in oil and coal, and Mrs. Simcox has left the operation of part of her oil lands to her sons, leasing the rest to others. Her sons drilled the first well put down in this section for the second sand oil. Homer L. DeWoody married Myrtle Gilmore and has one daughter, Josephine. William R. DeWoody married Cora Cocain, and they also have one daughter, Kathelyn.

EDWARD A. SIEDERMAN, of Oil City, represents the very progressive and public-spirited element to whose exertions the present efficient administration of municipal affairs in that city is due. As a member of the first council organized under the commission form of government, and head of the department of streets, sewers and lighting for several years, he has had a direct influence in the matter of local improvements, and the results of his activities are entirely to his credit, showing the disinterested efforts and honorable intentions of broad-minded, unselfish citizenship. Mr.

Siederman is a native of the Province of Hanover, Germany, born June 16, 1855, son of Charles Siederman, who died in that country.

Mr. Siederman received the thorough schooling and practical training customary in the old country, and was but a youth of sixteen when he made the voyage to America, alone, hoping to find advantages which the Old World did not offer. Landing at Castle Garden, New York City, he continued his journey until he reached Oil City, Pa., July 6, 1871. Here he soon found employment with D. L. Trax, who conducted a general blacksmith shop and tool shop, and after following that work for three years he was with the Roess Brothers in the oil business, remaining with them five years, until he began producing on his own account. It was in 1878 that he drilled his first well, in Cornplanter township, Venango county, and it is noteworthy that this well is still producing after forty years of activity. For thirteen years he lived in McKean county, this State, engaged in the production of oil, and for two years he operated in the State of Indiana, besides having some experience in the same line in Ohio. The rest of the time he has been at Oil City, all of his present leases being in Venango county, in Sugarcreek township. He gives his personal attention to their operation, which has been distinctly successful under his capable direction, all of his business affairs, in fact, being in prosperous shape. For several years he has been a director of the Oil City National Bank. Mr. Siederman has shown liberality of thought and wide sympathies in his public and social activities, most of his interests of such nature carrying responsibilities which he has regarded as privileges and desired opportunities for service to his fellow men rather than burdensome necessities. Politically he has always been aligned with the Republican party and ready to do his share toward the promoting of its measures. In his home city he has been one of the practical friends of good government. For six years he was a member of the city council, serving as one of the first council under the commission form of government and taking an active part in the direction of city affairs during that period, his particular labors being assigned to the department of streets, sewers and lighting, which benefited notably through his able counsel and executive ability. Many improvements made while he was in office were aided materially by his co-operation. Mr. Siederman has always been friendly and helpful to religious enterprises, is a member and one of the vestry of the Good Hope Lutheran Church, and a director of the

Oil City Y. M. C. A. Socially he holds membership in the Acacia Club and Masonic fraternity, affiliating with Petrolia Lodge No. 363, F. & A. M., Oil City Chapter No. 236, R. A. M., Talbot Commandery No. 43, K. T., and Venango Lodge of Perfection.

Mr. Siederman married Louisa Scott, a native of Allegheny City (now part of Pittsburgh), Pa., and they have a family of four children: Louis, who is in business with his father and resides at Reno, this county; Edward, now in Oklahoma; and Elizabeth and Josephine, at home.

EPHRAIM BLACK, of Franklin, has been a resident of that city since 1870 and throughout that time associated with the Franklin Pipe Company, Limited, whose prosperity is due largely to his good judgment and correct views regarding business conditions in this region. For many years Mr. Black was engaged in the production as well as the handling of oil, but his efforts have been bent specially toward building up the latter business, and its large measure of success is the best testimony as to his qualifications. Though primarily a business man, and with little taste for public life, he has nevertheless assumed responsible duties of other nature from time to time, his co-operation in any enterprise being welcomed and highly valued. He has found his pleasure and recreation in social and church interests, and has been prominent in both.

Mr. Black came to the oil country in 1864. Born in 1841 in Marion township, Butler Co., Pa., he is the son of Robert C. Black and a grandson of John Black, the latter a native of Ireland, who first located east of the mountains in Pennsylvania. After his marriage to Jane Crisswell he settled in Butler county, on a tract of one thousand acres, where he acquired squatter's rights, and there remained until his death. His children were: Martha, Matthew, Jane, Robert C., John, James, Julian, Rebecca and Alexander.

Robert C. Black was born in Butler county, Pa., where he lived and died, passing away in 1850. He grew up on his father's homestead and became the owner of two hundred acres of the paternal property, where he followed farming successfully. Mr. Black married Nancy Ann Kerr, daughter of Thomas Kerr, and she survived him, reaching the age of eighty-six years. Of their large family, John A. is living at Knox, Pa.; Thomas is deceased; William and James lived to be eighty years old; Robert is deceased; Joseph M., born Dec. 30, 1837, in Butler county, now a resident of

Emlenton, has been a prominent citizen of Venango county, having come to Scrubgrass township in May, 1860, and engaged in the production of oil, and he was county commissioner for two terms (on May 28, 1862, he married Candace Kohlmyer, and they had four children); Eliza Jane married James Campbell; Julia Ann, Mrs. Atwell, is a resident of Butler county; Ephraim is twin brother of Mrs. Atwell; Harriet married Daniel Beaty, of Toledo, Ohio; Caroline married Hovey Campbell, and both are deceased.

Ephraim Black was reared at the old home-stead place in Butler county, and had such educational advantages as the neighborhood afforded. His father dying when he was a mere boy, he began work early, taking charge of the farm when but fifteen years old, and operating it for his mother for several years. When but twenty years old he was appointed postmaster at Anandale, Butler county. He offered himself for military service there Aug. 4, 1862, becoming a member of Company F, 134th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and was sent to Camp Curtin, Washington, D. C., and Arlington Heights, but being taken sick was honorably discharged Feb. 14, 1863, on account of disability. It took him some months to regain his health after reaching home, but when well enough to resume work he decided to try the oil region, and came hither in 1864. His first work here was teaming, which he followed for a year, though he also began drilling in 1864, continuing to work at the wells until his removal to Franklin in 1870. He immediately entered the employ of the Franklin Pipe Line Company, which was started by Taft & Pain, and within a few years had become one of the stockholders in the company, of which he was elected a director in 1880, at the same time becoming manager. Mr. Black has been one of the board of directors ever since, and has been chairman of the board for the last five years, with E. E. Grimm, treasurer, and H. F. Grant, secretary. The tankage capacity of the company has reached eighty thousand barrels, including facilities for handling the Franklin Heavy oil. The present magnitude of the business may be largely ascribed to Mr. Black's management, and his activities in its behalf place him among the most competent industrial promoters in this region. At present he gives all his business hours to the pipe line business, formerly devoting considerable attention to the production of oil, in which he was equally successful.

Mr. Black has taken a keen interest in securing good government for his home city, and

himself served a term in the city council, where his work was characterized by the same practical ideas dominating his private affairs. As a veteran of the Civil war he has long been a member of Major Mays Post, of Franklin, and is now serving the organization as trustee. He is a past grand of the I. O. O. F., which he joined in 1872. His religious connection is with the Presbyterian Church, which he formerly served as trustee, at present holding the office of elder. Possessing a fine voice, he also assisted with the music, singing in the choir for many years.

On May 2, 1866, Mr. Black was married to Sarah McCoy, daughter of Judge Hiram Craig McCoy, associate judge of Butler county, and representative in the State Legislature from that district. Two children have been born to this union: Fannie May, born March 28, 1867, married Rev. W. P. Hollister, a Presbyterian minister, and died leaving one son, Francis B. Hollister, who is now in the training school at Fort Niagara; Lewis E. graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music, at Boston, Mass., and later studied in Italy, and he is now at the head of the musical department of the University of Virginia, at Morgantown; he married Ethel Jenny, of Massachusetts; they have no children.

WILLIAM S. PACA, of Oil City, secretary and general manager of the Petroleum Telephone Company, is a man of large experience in the operation and management of public utilities, by reason of which he has occupied a commanding place in local business concerns serving the municipality ever since he settled here. In a comparatively brief residence in the city he has attained a position among its foremost spirits in the promotion of public works and engineering enterprises, of which he has acquired an expert knowledge. The fact that he is president of the Oil City Chamber of Commerce, and his membership in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers of New York City and in The Telephone Pioneers of America, indicate achievements which have been considered deserving of definite recognition. Mr. Paca is a native of Baltimore, Md., born Aug. 27, 1863, and is a direct descendant of that William Paca who was one of the leading American politicians of his period, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and governor of Maryland from 1782 to 1785. He was born Oct. 31, 1740, at Wyehall, Harford Co., Md., and died there in 1799.

John P. Paca, grandfather of William S.

Paca, had a large estate in Queen Anne's county, Md., and also owned vessels, losing his life on one of them which was caught in the ice and sunk in Chesapeake bay. John Paca, father of William S. Paca, was a grain merchant in Baltimore until his death, at the age of fifty-seven years. He married Florence M. Keyes, daughter of Bailey Keyes, who was a prominent merchant in Baltimore, and she survives, making her home in that city.

William S. Paca grew to manhood at his birthplace, and obtained his education in the public schools there. All of his business life has been spent in the telephone business, which he entered in 1882 and in which he has reached the status of an expert, having made himself thoroughly familiar with its details in the course of a comprehensive experience. He was with the Bell Telephone Company in Baltimore for ten years, during which time he did special work in the development of long distance telephony before the Bell system had any long distance service installed. In fact, he was a real pioneer in that field and in the construction of apparatus for such communication. For several years he was in the service of the Eastern Electric Company of Baltimore, having served as special electrician in the work preliminary to the operation of the first electric street car operated in the city. In 1896 he was offered a position with the Independent Telephone Company at Baltimore, becoming engineer and superintendent, in which capacity he had charge of the construction of plants at Baltimore, Jersey City, Newark (N. J.), Trenton, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo and Erie, as well as some smaller places, being so engaged until his removal to Oil City in 1904. Here he has continued in the same line in his association with the Petroleum Telephone Company, whose officers are: Hon. P. M. Speer, president; C. M. Lamberton, treasurer; William S. Paca, secretary and general manager; P. M. Speer, W. A. McMaster, Axtell J. Byles, R. G. Lamberton, F. N. Chambers, A. W. Hayes and W. S. Paca, directors. Mr. Paca has also done considerable in the capacity of consulting engineer, and for the last two years he has been serving as president of the Oil City Chamber of Commerce. He has come into influence on his own merits entirely, having in all his connections demonstrated his ability to compete with the best talent in his line, his originality and resource enabling him to make a progressive showing in everything he undertakes. He has formed a number of high social connections in the city, belonging to the Elks Club, the Venango, Wanango, Oil

City Motor, Ivy and Oil City Boat Clubs. Mr. Paca has shown a disposition for unselfishness in his citizenship which has earned him the favorable opinion of all who know him.

Mr. Paca married Florence Winchester, daughter of George H. Winchester, of Baltimore, Md., and a member of the family famous as founders of the Winchester Arms Company, of New Haven, Conn. Of their four children, Ruth is at home; Helen died when eleven years old; Lieut. William W. Paca is a graduate of West Point Military Academy and now first lieutenant of the 49th Infantry, Regular Army, stationed at Camp Merritt, N. J.; Dorothy is a student at Notre Dame College, Baltimore, Md., taking up vocal music. The family are Episcopalians in religious association.

JOHN OSBÖRN, late of Franklin, has left many substantial evidences of his life work in that city and at other points in this section of Pennsylvania. Arriving here at a period when business conditions were favorable to material development of the best order, he possessed the constructive skill and intelligence requisite for a prominent part in the work, and set a standard in his line which few others have even approached. Mr. Osborn was the type of builder who takes a conscientious pride in his achievements. He had the artistic sense to realize that to be truly fine a building must be thoroughly adapted to the purpose it must serve, but he also knew that harmony with surroundings and beauty of construction are not incompatible with service, and his workmanship was equal to the attainment of both. The structures that he erected are notable for good taste and durability, and comprise a flattering percentage of the best buildings in Franklin and other cities in this part of the State. Though he lived to his seventy-fifth year, he continued to be active in business until a short time before his decease.

Mr. Osborn was a native of England, born Nov. 20, 1842, at Redruth, in the County of Cornwall. He spent his early life in that country, and received the thorough training characteristic of tradesmen in the Old World. Remaining in England until two years after his marriage, he left his wife and child there and came alone to the United States, where his first location was at Dover, Del. His wife and child joined him six months later, and the family soon moved to Scranton, Pa., where he began contracting, continuing in that location for several years. About 1881 Mr. Osborn concluded to make a change of residence,

his choice falling upon Franklin, Venango Co., Pa., where he found a permanent home. His work speedily won the recognition that it deserved, and he was one of the busiest contractors in the city regardless of the times, being awarded some of the best work undertaken here. It is a well known fact that he was so exacting about the quality of the work he turned over to his patrons that if it satisfied him there was no question about their opinion of it, and the great demand for his work was founded upon punctilious attention to every detail of the contracts he had. Among the structures which he put up in Franklin may be mentioned the Masonic Temple, *Evening News* building, Snook block, Franklin Trust Company building, Lamberton National Bank, New Orpheum theatre, the Catholic and Presbyterian churches and the Episcopal Sunday school. He also made the addition to the high school and added the fourth floor to the Y. M. C. A. building. He had the contract for the larger part of the Polk Institution buildings, and his son and successor is now building a sand plant at that Institution. He laid considerable paving in the city, and also did a great deal of street paving at Butler, Pa., as well as five streets in Titusville, this State. Some of his important work was at Butler and Warren, including a silk mill at the latter place, and he built another silk mill at Kane, Pa., as well as a bank building and an apartment building. He also put up the New Orpheum Theatre at Titusville. After his son John became old enough to assume responsibilities he was taken into partnership, and he is continuing the business on his own account now.

Mr. Osborn was a most desirable citizen, and highly esteemed for his kindly personality as well as his honesty and loyalty to any person or cause with which he was associated. He took no active part in public affairs, leading a very domestic life, though he was a member in good standing of the B. P. O. Elks lodge of Franklin and the Protected Home Circle. All his life he was a devout member of the Episcopal Church. He passed away at his home in Franklin, on Eagle street, July 19, 1917, and was interred in the Franklin cemetery, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. Martin Aigner, of St. John's Episcopal Church, and the commitment service of the Elks being followed at the grave.

On March 5, 1867, Mr. Osborn was married, at Newquay, England, to Mary Mitchell, a native of Newquay, born Jan. 8, 1844, who died Dec. 5, 1916, and is buried in Franklin cemetery. She, too, was a member of St.

John's Church. Mr. Osborn's health was never good after her demise, though he was seriously ill only two weeks before his own death. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn reared five children, namely: Anna, the wife of John E. Tarr, of Richmond, Cal., has one son, John; Lida is the wife of F. C. Dailey, of Wilkinsburg, Pa.; John is mentioned below; Miss Clara lives at home; Edith is the wife of A. C. Sheasley, of Franklin. Mr. Osborn was also survived by a brother and sister, Edwin Osborn, of Franklin, and Mrs. Jabez Floyd, of Scranton.

JOHN OSBORN, only son of John and Mary (Mitchell) Osborn, was born Nov. 1, 1875, in Scranton, Pa., and was a child when the family removed to Franklin, where he acquired all his education in the public schools. All of his business life has been spent with his father and since the latter's death in carrying on the business which the latter established, and for which he has become well qualified under such excellent training and by practical experience. He is considered one of the coming figures in construction work in this section, and it is highly to his credit that he has the reputation of endeavoring to maintain the principles and standards for which his father was noted. Mr. Osborn is unmarried. He is well known in Franklin and other cities in this part of Pennsylvania, and fraternally holds membership with the B. P. O. Elks lodge of his home city.

JOHN LAMB, one of the influential pioneer residents of Allegheny township, Venango county, accomplished more than the average man of his generation in establishing the social order and bringing civilized conditions into that region. He had the dauntless, energetic temperament necessary to success in his material enterprises in those primitive times, coupled with the foresight and active intelligence which made him a valuable citizen, and an attitude of fellowship and goodwill toward humanity generally which prompted the many kindly and helpful acts that brought him popularity as well as esteem. In business he was venturesome, self-reliant and capable, carrying his undertakings through to success, and he showed the same spirit in matters affecting the public welfare, advocating and helping to success many movements which benefited every other member of the community as much as himself.

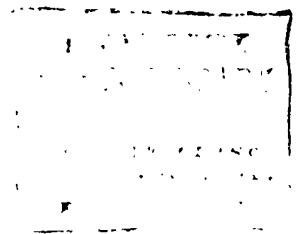
Mr. Lamb was of Scotch-Irish descent, the youngest of the eight children, three sons and five daughters, born to John and Nancy (Sparks) Lamb, who were among the first

settlers of Center county, Pa. He was born near Bellefonte, that county, June 13, 1806, and was about fourteen years old at the time of his father's death. Reared and educated in his native county, he also learned the trade of tanner there, and with that as his principal means of livelihood came to Venango county in 1827. In 1829 he settled in Allegheny township, where he purchased a small piece of land then in the woods, and as soon as he had built a log house started a tannery, the first in the township. A tradesman was a valuable acquisition to the community, and he was kept busy with that work and the clearing of his land, which in time he transformed into one of the largest and finest farms in the county. The tanning business grew also, and Mr. Lamb in addition engaged in the lumber business and merchandising, becoming one of the leading men of affairs in his day. He was genial and hospitable in disposition, and his house, being conveniently situated on the Warren and Franklin road, became one of the popular stopping places for stagecoaches and travelers over that thoroughfare. His store was a well known trading center, and through his efforts a post office was established there, which was known by his name and kept by him for a number of years. When oil was discovered he prospected on his own land and did some development work, engaging in both production and refining in a limited way, for he did not live to see the era of its extensive exploitation. He served his township as school director, and gave his support to all worthy enterprises, being known as a friend of progress in every direction. Politically he was a Democrat until Lincoln received the presidential nomination, when he changed to the Republican party, and he always took part in campaigns and elections. His death, in November, 1863, removed one of the most respected men of the township from a sphere of wide usefulness.

On April 23, 1833, Mr. Lamb married Mary Bailey Smith, daughter of Capt. William Smith, of Waterford, Pa., whose family consisted of five sons and two daughters. She died in November, 1849, the mother of seven children, namely: William Smith, born Sept. 17, 1834, died in infancy; Alfred, born Dec. 28, 1835, is mentioned below; John spent over forty years in Idaho, at Silver City, engaged in silver mining and the publication of a mining paper, and died at Pleasantville in 1916; David, born in September, 1840, was an oil producer in the Bradford and McDonald fields, and his wide knowledge of the business led



*John Lamb*



to his selection, by prospective purchasers, as investigator of what was thought to be an attractive territory in Colorado, where he died while engaged in that work (his home was at Pleasantville); Nancy Elizabeth, born Sept. 28, 1842, is the widow of Samuel Queen Brown and resides with her four children in New York City; Miss Sarah King Lamb, born Oct. 2, 1844, spent ten years with her sister while the latter was living in Philadelphia, subsequently devoted three years to missionary work in the South, at Harriman and Huntsville, Tenn., among the mountaineers, and has since resided at the home of her brother, Alfred, being now in Pleasantville; Henry Rowan, born April 14, 1849, who died in 1887, was an oil producer in the lower part of Allegheny county, Pa. On Feb. 1, 1853, John Lamb married (second) Mary Anna May, daughter of Rev. Hezekiah and Margaret (White) May, of Tionesta, Pa., and by this union there was one daughter, Mary S., born April 18, 1854, who married William J. Bleakley, of Franklin, Pa., May 17, 1876. Mrs. Mary Anna (May) Lamb died Nov. 17, 1877.

ALFRED LAMB, now living retired at Pleasantville, has been a lifelong resident of that portion of Venango county, and like his father has been a strong force in its social and material progress. Born Dec. 28, 1835, on the home farm in Allegheny township, this county, he was reared there, educated in the local schools, and acquired his early business training in association with his father, whose interests were so varied and extensive as to afford unusual opportunity for the development of his judgment and reliability. He continued to live on the farm throughout his active years and kept his interests there and in the immediate neighborhood, carrying on general agriculture in the cultivation of the land and making extensive oil developments on the home place as well as on an adjoining tract which he acquired by purchase. The property was kept in trim and attractive condition by judicious improvements in all lines, the old brick house erected by his father was replaced with a modern frame residence, and numerous minor changes added to the value and desirability of the old farm. When he left the place to give up active cares on account of his advancing years, Mr. Lamb moved into the borough of Pleasantville, where he has since occupied the fine home erected by his brother-in-law, Samuel Queen Brown, in about 1867. Here he has led a comparatively quiet life, with no business responsibilities except such as he chooses to assume. A man of substan-

tial character and prompt in attending to all his obligations, he has always been a good citizen as well as a competent business man, mindful of his duties in every relation of life.

Mr. Lamb married Martha Himrod, daughter of an early and close friend of his mother at Waterford, Pa., who passed away April 6, 1918, after a happy companionship of fifty-two and a half years. Mr. and Mrs. Lamb had no children of their own, but they reared two, a son and a daughter: John H. Lamb was taken into their home when a few days old, his mother having died at his birth, was well educated, being a student of State College, and when he entered business life was given a place in the Bleakley Bank at Franklin, several years ago accepting his present position as cashier of the Citizens National Bank at New Castle, Pa.; Mary Lamb has lived with her foster parents from the age of four years, caring for them devotedly in their advancing age.

E. CALVIN BEATTY, of Oil City, has devoted his business life to operations in the Pennsylvania and Mid-Continent oil fields, and his extensive holdings and prestige indicate that he possesses the high character and substantial qualities for which all the members of his family have been distinguished, as well as the discernment necessary to the efficient administration of his various properties. The Beattys, father and sons, have contributed materially to progress in the conduct of the oil industry no less than to its expansion, their operations representing an appreciable share in its continued growth.

The Beattys are an old Pennsylvania family, whose representatives in every generation have been classed among the worthy and estimable members of their respective communities. They are of that sturdy stock which, originating in Scotland, fled from that country to the North of Ireland during the persecution of the Covenanters, their American ancestor coming thence in the eighteenth century. David Beatty, the great-great-grandfather of E. Calvin Beatty, lived in eastern Pennsylvania, and there he and his wife are buried; her maiden name was Gilmore. Their son Ebenezer Beatty, the great-grandfather, entered his country's service in the Revolution when but eighteen years old, as a drummer boy under Washington, and his posterity have displayed the same spirit, his descendants having been represented in every war since. In 1794 he moved with his family over the Allegheny mountains, settling in Butler county, Pa., on land which is still

owned by his descendants, and where he was a thrifty farmer throughout his active years. He lived to the age of ninety, and is buried with his wife Jane (Carbray) in Harmony cemetery, Butler county. They were the parents of the following family: David, Henry, Thomas, John and Olive (twins, the latter dying in infancy), Ebenezer and Charles.

Henry Beatty, son of Ebenezer and Jane (Carbray) Beatty, was very young when the family moved from east of the mountains, and he spent his life as a farmer in Butler county. He served as a soldier during the war of 1812. His wife Margaret was a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Pizer) Steintorf, and survived him many years, reaching the age of eighty-seven, while he passed away when sixty-seven years old. They were members of the U. P. Church and are buried in the Harmony Church cemetery in Butler county. They reared children as follows: Henry, Ebenezer S., Elizabeth, Jane, Annie, Mahala, David, John, Margaret and Valentine.

Ebenezer S. Beatty, son of Henry and Margaret (Steintorf) Beatty, was born Dec. 8, 1822, on the old Beatty farm near Harrisville, Butler county, where he was reared. Being well educated for the times he taught school during his young manhood, from 1845 until 1851, out of school seasons occupying himself with farm work and as a cattle drover, taking stock over the old pike to Philadelphia, and fattening them in Berks county just before turning them into the market. He was in this business until 1865, and meantime, in the early sixties, became interested in a mercantile establishment at Plumer, Venango county, on Cherry run, during the erection of the Humboldt refinery, continuing to own and operate the business until 1876. The Humboldt was one of the earliest refineries in this locality, and the first pipe line ran to it, from the Miller Farm. In March, 1867, he removed his home to Venango county and became engaged in the production of oil in the vicinity of Rouseville, where the family resided, continuing to operate in that territory until 1886, in which year he returned to Butler county. From that time until his retirement in 1900 he carried on a hardware business at Harrisville, not far from the old Beatty homestead, and the closing years of his life were spent at Grove City, where his death occurred Oct. 15, 1901. A man of strong character and irreproachable integrity, he filled an influential place among his fellow men, and for twenty-five years held the office of justice of the peace, serving both at Rouseville and Harrisville. He was successful in his oil ven-

tures, which began soon after the discovery of oil in this region, acquiring his first interest in that line in the early sixties, in a production where development was started before the famous Drake well was brought in. The drilling was done by the spring-pole method, and the tubing, which was all of copper, was brought from New York.

In 1847 Mr. Beatty married Agnes Sample Braham, who was born Oct. 18, 1825, on a farm now included in the city of New Castle, Pa., and died Aug. 8, 1909. She is buried with her husband at Grove City. They were members of the U. P. Church, which he served officially, and in political principle he was a Republican. Mr. and Mrs. Beatty had a large family, viz.: Melvina, Ralph S., deceased; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Dr. James Palmer; Viola, deceased in infancy; Henry Bruce, born Aug. 16, 1857, who married Lucinda May Strong (she is deceased); E. Calvin, mentioned below; John, deceased in infancy; Agnes, wife of W. I. Womer; and Leroy B., who married Mneatha Strong, daughter of Elizur Strong. During the Spanish-American war Leroy B. Beatty enlisted and served in the Philippines, being a private in Company H, 10th Regiment, P. V. I., and mustered out as quartermaster sergeant.

Samuel Braham, father of Mrs. Agnes Sample (Braham) Beatty, sold his farm near New Castle, Lawrence Co., Pa., in 1834, and moved to Butler county, where he also farmed. A coal company bought his Butler county property, and on moving from it he located at Slippery Rock, that county, where he resided until his death at the age of eighty-four years. His wife, Mary Ann (Patton), died when seventy-four years old, and they are buried in the Harmony cemetery in Butler county. Their children were: Three sons that died in infancy; Hugh, who married Ann Mifflin; William Patton, who married Rebecca Snyder; Agnes Sample, Mrs. Ebenezer S. Beatty; Jane, Mrs. Alexander Dugan; Mary Ann, who died when twenty-two years old; Eliza, Mrs. Hiram Snyder; Samuel, who married Emily McCoy; Margaret, Mrs. Thomas Mifflin; Isabella; Sarah Ann, Mrs. William Kirkpatrick; Asenath Martha, Mrs. Samuel McCleary; and Jemima, who died when six months old. The family were Covenanters in religion.

Mrs. Mary Ann (Patton) Braham was also of Covenanter stock. Her grandfather, William Patton, Sr., was the son of a curate in Ireland. He eloped with a lady of good birth, and having decided to make his home in

America came to this country alone, leaving his wife and child in Ireland. He bought a farm near New Castle, Del., and prepared a home for his family, and wrote them a letter stating that he would start for Ireland the next morning, to fetch them. It was the last news of him they ever had, and his wife and child were cared for by his brother, Rev. Mr. Patton. The child, William Patton, Jr., lived in Ireland until after his marriage, being obliged to leave the country because of his connection with the Society of United Irishmen, and first located in the Cishecoquils valley in Mifflin county, Pa. In the latter part of the year 1800 he moved to Mercer (now Lawrence) county, settling on the Scrubgrass road three miles from New Castle, where he farmed during the rest of his life. He and his wife Jane Spear are buried in the old Neshannock Church cemetery near New Castle. They adhered to the Covenanter faith, and he was a Whig in politics. Their family consisted of ten children: Jane, Mrs. Alexander Wright; Margaret, Mrs. Joseph Wylie; John, who married Mary Wright; William, who married Jennie Braham; Jacob, who married Elizabeth Shaw; Mary Ann, Mrs. Samuel Braham; Isabelle; David, who died when five years old; Archibald, who married Eliza Stunkard; and Eliza, who married James Love and (second) John Kirkpatrick.

E. Calvin Beatty was born March 10, 1860, on his father's farm in Mercer county, Pa., in a log house standing near the Craig school-house. He moved with his parents to Rouseville March 27, 1867, and received his education in the public schools of that borough. He began work in the oil fields at such an early age that he witnessed practically all of the development of the industry, which had hardly departed from the crude first methods in his boyhood. When twelve years old he worked in the power house on his father's production, reversing the engine when it was used in "pulling" a well, a process done away with by the invention of the reverse action on steam engines, and he became familiar with all the ordinary duties about the wells within the next few years. In 1879 he was employed on the Quintuple tract near Song Bird, in the Bradford field, by the E. Strong Company. In 1884 he became a member of the Oil City Oil Exchange, upon which he operated profitably until the next year. But speculation in pipe line certificates had declined and he resumed activities as an operator, in which capacity he has since been most prominently associated with the oil business. From 1884 he was in

partnership with O. H. Strong and his brother H. B. Beatty under the firm name of H. B. Beatty & Company, having a tract of 150 acres at Tiona, in Warren county, where they brought in some very good wells, E. C. Beatty and his father-in-law, William Helm, eventually taking over this property, which they have worked as Beatty & Helm. Mr. Beatty has also been interested with the firm known as the Helm, Meley Company in operations in Warren county. He has also been engaged in gas production, but an unfortunate investment in that line a few years ago swept away his accumulations, leaving him to start life over again. However, his experience led him into profitable oil operations in which he has more than retrieved his losses, his holdings in the shallow sand development in Oklahoma proving highly remunerative. He originally had eight hundred acres in that territory, near Nowata, but he has been selling gradually, still retaining ninety acres in fee, with twenty-seven producing wells. For a number of years Mr. Beatty was manager of the Oakwood Farm & Garden Company, whose property in Cranberry township, near Oil City, ranks with the leading horticultural establishments of the United States, its shipments of cut flowers reaching enormous proportions. He owns and manages a fine truck farm in Dorchester county, Md., on the "East Shore" near Chesapeake Bay, having acquired 180 acres in two pieces, all of which is under cultivation. There are fifty-five acres in wheat. He spends the summers there with his family.

On Jan. 22, 1884, Mr. Beatty was married at Tidioute, Pa., to Barbara Ida Elizabeth Helm, who was born July 19, 1864, daughter of William Helm, and they are the parents of the following children: Elliott Braham, born Nov. 29, 1884, is a graduate of the Oil City high school and now engaged at the Oakwood Rose Gardens; Mabel Alicia, born Jan. 3, 1886, is a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church in western China, having been educated in the Oil City high school, Allegheny College (B. A.), Boston University (A. M.) and Cincinnati Training School for Christian Service; Maude Irene, born Dec. 2, 1888, was educated in the Oil City high school, Allegheny College and the Library School at Albany, N. Y., and is now acting as librarian at St. Joseph, Mo.; Vina Marguerite, born Sept. 22, 1895, was also educated at the Oil City high school and Allegheny College, later taking a commercial course at Welsh's business college in Oil City; Clara Barbara, born April 16, 1898, finished the course in the grade schools and

two years of high school in Oil City, and Jennings Seminary, Aurora, Ill., class of 1918; Marshall Helm, born June 29, 1903, is attending the Junior high school in Oil City; Robert Bruce, born Aug. 3, 1904, is also attending the Junior high school. The family have lived in Oil City since 1888, and for a number of years have occupied their present beautiful home at No. 517 West Third street, in the Fourth ward, one of the most attractive residences in that desirable location. Mr. Beatty is a prominent Odd Fellow, having been a member of Oil City Lodge, No. 589, for over thirty years and treasurer of that body for several years. Politically he is a Republican.

The Helm family is one of long standing in Armstrong county, Pa., where Jacob Hellam, Mrs. Beatty's grandfather, was born Aug. 15, 1815, at Cowansville. He owned one hundred acres of land near Cowansville, and followed farming, dying at his homestead Feb. 8, 1895, in his eightieth year. He married Elizabeth Fair, like himself a native of Washington township, Armstrong Co., Pa., born March 1, 1824, and who survived until March 3, 1902. They are buried in the cemetery of old St. Mark's Lutheran Church at Cowansville, having been long-time members of that denomination. Mr. Hellam was a Republican in political opinion. Their children were: William, mentioned below; Sylvanus, who is buried in the National cemetery at Washington, D. C.; Mary, wife of Peter C. Blocher; Sarah Jane, wife of William E. Mateer; Catherine, wife of C. Robert Hayes; Alvira, wife of Benjamin T. Mealy; Cyrus, who married Emma Frick; Amanda, wife of John E. Templeton; Albert Milton, who married Ida May Coleman; and Eunice, who married R. James Dickey and (second) a Mr. Schall. The mother was a granddaughter of Michael and Mary B. (Steelsmith) Fair, the former of whom died Aug. 10, 1860, aged eighty-four years, nine months, the latter July 7, 1870, aged ninety years, thirteen days; her father and mother, Jacob and Sarah (Wolf) Steelsmith, died aged eighty-five years (in 1828) and ninety-three years, respectively. They are all interred in a private burial ground in Washington township, Armstrong county, near Cowansville, and all were residents of that township. Sarah, daughter of Michael, married her cousin Peter Fair, and they were the parents of Mrs. Jacob Hellam. He died Sept. 23, 1878, aged eighty-two years, two months, five days, and his wife Sarah passed away Dec. 4, 1891, aged ninety-one years, twenty-nine days. They were farming people.

William Helm, father of Mrs. E. Calvin Beatty, changed the name from its original form Hellam. He was born Feb. 25, 1842, at Cowansville, Armstrong Co., Pa., and after his marriage removed to Forest county, Pa., settling upon a tract of one thousand acres which his father had purchased from the Holland Land Company, living for a time at Babylon Hill and moving thence to Tidioute, Warren county. He sold books for a time, but he was a pioneer oil producer in Warren county, where he owned many acres of valuable land, his family still retaining some of his oil productions there. His life was very successful. Upon his retirement he went to Colorado Springs, Colo., on account of the health of his daughter Florence, and he died there Nov. 6, 1908, being buried in the Evergreen cemetery at Colorado Springs. Originally a Lutheran in religion, he was for some years associated with the Methodist Church, but returned to the old denomination before his death. Politically he was a Republican. By his marriage to Catherine Ellen Woods were born five children: Barbara Ida Elizabeth, Mrs. E. Calvin Beatty; Clara Regina; Jacob Clemence, who married Claudia Godfrey; Herbert Ernest, deceased in infancy; and Florence Olivia, who died when twenty years old.

Mrs. Helm survives her husband and continues to reside at Colorado Springs. She was born July 6, 1844, near Kittanning, Armstrong Co., Pa., daughter of Jacob Woods, a farmer of that vicinity, who is buried with his wife Barbara (Wideman) in western Iowa. They had children: Daniel, Lebbaeus, Isaac, John, Lavina, Caroline, Mary, Eli and Catherine, all the sons but Eli serving as Union soldiers during the Civil war. The parents were Lutherans, and Mr. Woods was a Republican politically.

Daniel Wideman, maternal grandfather of Mrs. Helm, was of German birth, coming from Paulse, on the Rhine, and he was educated for the Lutheran ministry, in which his father and several brothers spent their lives. He left Germany to escape conscription, settled in Pennsylvania, and married Catherine Shanks, of Lancaster county, this State. They were farming people in Westmoreland county, Mrs. Wideman dying at Mount Pleasant, that county, aged eighty-six years. She and her husband are buried there. They always remained in the Lutheran Church. Their children were as follows: Benjamin, who died in Nebraska in 1897, aged ninety-one years; Daniel, who died in Illinois; Barbara; Caroline, wife of David Baum; Michael; Philip; Harriet, Mrs. John Troxell, of Westmoreland county; Lydia,

Mrs. William Squires; Jacob; Catherine, Mrs. Joseph Baum; and Joseph.

JOHN LESTER EAKIN, one of the largest land owners in southern Venango county, is centrally located in Clinton township four miles north of Clintonville and two miles east of Bullion, his home and central interests being on the old Kennerdell farm three and a half miles west of the town of Kennerdell. As agricultural, oil and ore land it is one of the most valuable tracts in the region, and under Mr. Eakin's business-like management is yielding well in every line.

The Eakin family is an old one in this section of Venango county, John Lester Eakin being of the third generation here. His great-grandparents, Samuel and Maria Eakin, came to this country from Ireland and made their home in Butler county, Pa. His grandfather, William Eakin, was born in Ireland, and was two years old when brought to the United States. He was reared in Butler county, and at the time of his marriage to Maria Robb settled in the woods in Irwin township, Venango county, on a tract of land lying partly in what is now Clinton township, making a permanent home on that place. This farm lies in what has since become famous as the Bullion oil field. He cleared and improved it, building a house in 1843 and a barn in 1846 or 1847, and the property is now in the possession of his grandsons, Elliott Eakin owning part of it and another grandson, Walter P. Eakin, owning the oil rights, from which he receives substantial royalties. William Eakin died at the age of seventy-three years, his wife Maria (Robb) at the age of eighty-seven, and they are buried at Amity Presbyterian Church. They had a large family, five sons and five daughters, namely: David R., father of John Lester Eakin; Samuel, who died in Mercer county when sixty-nine years old; William, who lived in Irwin township and died at Franklin; James, who died on the old farm (his sons are Elliott and Walter Eakin, above mentioned); Isaac, of Pittsburgh; Elizabeth, widow of James Coulter, living in Grove City; Sarah, widow of Archibald Davidson, of Crawfordsville, Iowa; Mary Jane, deceased, who was the wife of Walter Hovis; Belle, who married John T. Hovis and lives on a farm adjoining the homestead; and Margaret, of Grove City.

David R. Eakin was born Feb. 9, 1831, two miles west of his late home, which is half a mile east of Bullion store. He obtained that property in 1856, at which time it was

a wornout tract of one hundred acres, which during his active years he converted into a valuable farm property, improving the land by judicious cultivation and putting up all the buildings now standing there. The house was erected fifteen years ago, on the site of one which had been burned, and the barn has been built since. Oil has also been developed upon the farm, Mr. Eakin's son John having sunk the first well there. Mr. Eakin led a thrifty, prosperous life, and died April 27, 1918, at the age of eighty-seven, after enjoying well earned leisure for many years. He is buried in Pleasant View M. E. cemetery. He was long a supporter of the Pleasant View M. E. Church, and of late years a Prohibitionist in political affiliation, formerly voting the Democratic ticket. On May 1, 1860, Mr. Eakin married Elizabeth Sutton, daughter of Solomon and Almira (Knowlton) Sutton, who lived on a farm adjoining the Smith or V. S. Sutton place. She was born near there and was twenty-one years old at the time of her marriage. Mrs. Eakin had the following brothers and sisters: F. A. Sutton, deceased, of Meadville, Pa.; L. B., of Butler, Pa.; Albert, of Sistersville, W. Va.; Miller, of Portland, Oregon; Steward, a resident of Wisconsin; Lewis, of Butler county, Pa.; Robert, deceased, of Portland, Oregon; Walter, deceased, formerly of Apollo, Pa.; Mrs. J. W. Gray, of Marietta, Ohio; and Mrs. David Garret, deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Eakin were born the following children: William, who died when twenty-one years old; Rosa, who died when nineteen years old; Alonzo, who died when past forty years old (he was engaged in the oil business); Mary, wife of W. L. Sutton, of Sistersville, W. Va., where he is the present mayor of the city; Jennie, living at home; Ella, who was a dressmaker and died at the age of thirty-one years; Frank J., a farmer of Clinton township; John Lester; Floyd R., living at the old home, and engaged as a farmer, oil man, real estate dealer, etc.; and Blanche, who died when nineteen years old.

John Lester Eakin was born May 22, 1877, on the old Eakin homestead, where he spent his boyhood and youth, receiving his education in the common schools of the neighborhood. During his young manhood he was engaged as a pumper in the local oil fields for two years, and for another two years was employed in various capacities in the oil fields of Virginia and Ohio. Returning to Venango county in 1900 he took an oil lease on the home place and began to operate in company with his brother F. J. Eakin, sinking two producing

wells the first year. He bought his brother's interest and continued the work alone, and he has held that lease ever since, drilling sixteen wells in the twenty-five-acre tract, which proved to be the most productive territory in the Bullion field. The average yield per well was five barrels daily, and it is holding up well under steady production. Later he bought the rest of the lease on the D. R. Eakin farm, with forty wells, which he now holds, having drilled three of these since. The Bullion field was apparently petered out when he renewed operations there in 1900. The earlier development, conducted some twenty years previously, had been entirely in the third sand, but his new finds were all in the second sand, and the first well he sunk yielded well enough to start the present activities there. When his second well produced ten barrels daily investment was enlivened immediately, and he and others have been operating in the vicinity since with great profit. He bought the Hovis farm there, 157 acres upon which no exploitation had taken place, and drilled one well which enabled him to sell the property for thirty thousand dollars. Mr. Eakin holds a lease of 135 acres of the Plumer farm near Kennerdell, where he has drilled twenty-two wells, all producing; no new wells have been opened there in the last five years, nor has he done any development work during the last four or five years on the Surrena farm, north of Clintonville, which he bought when it had seven producing wells, having drilled sixteen more—all of the twenty-three yield at present. When he purchased the Hollister lease, a thirty-acre tract, there were four wells in operation, and he has put down seven more, having eleven producing there now. With a partner he is interested in a 100-acre lease at Raymilton, this county, where six wells have been sunk, all with a valuable third sand production.

Originally Mr. Eakin owned only a half interest in his present large property in Clinton township, the old Kennerdell farm, which comprises 960 acres, but after three years he acquired full possession, and during his ownership the oil wells there have been increased from fifteen to forty-eight, and the development is being continued steadily with encouraging prospects. The production is excellent, principally third sand oil. Mr. Eakin's time is largely taken up with his numerous oil properties, but he is giving considerable attention at present to the improvement of his home property in other lines also, its valuable resources holding every promise of adequate returns. The arable land was largely grown up

with brush when he acquired the place, but he now has one hundred acres under cultivation in general farm products and in a profitable state of fertility. A large tract on this property is leased to a Pittsburgh concern which has already taken out many tons of "bog" iron ore, a valuable soft ore of deep red color especially useful in the manufacture of paint. This deposit covers a large area of the farm, on which there is also much valuable timber. Mr. Eakin has a very desirable home there, conveniently equipped, and heated with gas from his own wells. His broad ideas and keen comprehension of the possibilities of this estate have been well illustrated in the work which has been done there so far, and assure its thorough exploitation along modern lines. Beyond giving his support and encouragement to the Prohibition party he takes no part in public affairs, but he has always shown himself wholly public-spirited on local questions and can be counted upon for intelligent cooperation in any cause which he considers vital to the best interests of the community.

At the age of twenty-eight years Mr. Eakin married Sarah E. Cokain, daughter of Sylvester and Elvira (Monjar) Cokain, and they have two children, David E. and J. Lester, Jr. Mr. Eakin belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church at Pleasant View, Mrs. Eakin to the Presbyterian Church at Clintonville.

Sylvester Cokain, father of Mrs. Eakin, died at the Kennerdell farm about 1905, at the age of fifty-six years. He had operated the oil lease there for some time, and also had a lease on 100 acres of the Plumer farm, which his widow still retains. Mrs. Cokain is now residing in Franklin.

WILLIAM C. TYLER, M. D., has the distinction of being the oldest resident of the borough of Rouseville, where he has been engaged in medical practice for over fifty years, prominent in business circles and an effective worker in its advancement along material and social lines, both officially and in his capacity as a private citizen. Dr. Tyler came here in 1864 from Ohio, where he was born and reared, but the family is of English extraction and his earlier ancestors in this country were established in Connecticut.

Calvin Tyler, the Doctor's father, was born April 13, 1797, in Greene county, N. Y., was reared on a farm, and followed agricultural pursuits throughout his active years. In 1824 he married Emma White, who was a descendant of Peregrine White, born Nov. 20, 1620, on the "Mayflower," while the vessel lay at

anchor in Cape Cod harbor, being a son of William and Susanna White. As the first white child born in New England Peregrine White received a grant of two hundred acres of land from the General Court. His father dying during the first winter at Plymouth, his mother married Gov. Edward Winslow (theirs being the first wedding to take place in New England), Peregrine White being thus a half-brother of Josiah Winslow, first native governor of Plymouth Colony. He filled various civil and military offices in the colony, and it is said of him that he "was vigorous and of a comely aspect to the last." He died in Marshfield, Mass., July 22, 1704.

In 1831 Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Tyler moved to Hiram, Portage Co., Ohio, where he bought the farm whereon they continued to make their home until 1874, in which year they came to Rouseville to pass their remaining days with their son, Dr. Tyler. In 1826 they had joined the Baptist Church at Mexico, N. Y., and soon after moving to Ohio Mr. Tyler with a few other like-minded spirits founded the First Baptist Church of Garrettsville, where he held membership and served as deacon until his removal to Rouseville. Thereafter he was associated with the Baptist Church in that borough until it was disbanded, when he united with the Baptist Church in Oil City, of which he was a faithful member until his death. Originally a Democrat in politics, Mr. Tyler became a Republican at the time of Lincoln's first candidacy, and always supported the ticket afterward, voting at eighteen presidential elections. He was a loyal citizen, personally a man of many excellences of character, and a consistent Christian in his daily walk in life. He and his wife both died at their son's home in Rouseville, she in 1886, aged eighty-two years, he on December 4, 1890, in his ninety-fourth year, and they are buried at West Farmington, Ohio. They were the parents of three sons and two daughters.

William C. Tyler, son of Calvin and Emma (White) Tyler, was born Jan. 6, 1838, at Hiram, Portage Co., Ohio, and in his youth enjoyed unusual educational advantages for the times, attending Hiram College at his birthplace, during the presidency of James A. Garfield at that institution. During his young manhood he taught school in Ohio five years, meanwhile reading medicine under Dr. John French for three years, and entering the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, in 1862, graduating in 1863 with the degree of M. D. After a year's practice

at Munson, Ohio, Dr. Tyler severed early associations for better promise in his chosen work, settling at Rouseville, Venango Co., Pa., where he has ever since resided. Leaving his parents' home at Hiram, Ohio, on horseback, he journeyed thus to his new location, arriving at Rouseville July 14, 1864, since when he has been in active practice in and around the borough. During the first ten years of his residence here he visited his patients on horseback, riding much of the time through dense woods, and when roads improved took to driving. In 1869 he became a partner in a drug business at Rouseville, acquiring sole ownership of the store in 1876 and conducting it ever since in connection with his practice—the only drug store in the borough and one of the most popular in this section of Venango county. He has also had some oil interests, and altogether has prospered very satisfactorily in the management of his material affairs. During the early days here local conditions made his work very arduous; nevertheless he prizes the experience, and enjoys recalling the many interesting features which marked the oil development in this region as well as the beginnings of its industrial progress in other lines. With all the responsibilities of his personal interests, he has been public-spirited about giving his time and thought to assisting in the general advancement, and has been called upon to serve the borough in many important positions, councilman, burgess, and member of the school board, in all of which he has performed his duties most efficiently. He served two terms as commissioner of Cornplanter township. Like his father, he is a stanch Republican in political belief. Dr. Tyler was one of the first thirty-second-degree Masons in this section. He was made a Mason at Garrettsville, Ohio, and assisted in the organization of Fraternal Lodge, No. 483, F. & A. M., at Rouseville, in 1870, being now its only surviving charter member. He belongs to Caldwell Consistory at Bloomsburg.

On June 4, 1873, Dr. Tyler married, at Rouseville, Ella Conant, who died July 6, 1873, and is buried in Grove Hill cemetery, Oil City. On Oct. 19, 1875, he married (second) her sister, Angelina Conant, at Morenci, Mich., and by that union had three daughters: Ella A., the wife of Fred J. Wilkins, of Rouseville; Rowena W., now the wife of Dr. C. C. Moyar, son of William Moyar, who is in practice at Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Edith G., living at home. The mother died Sept. 18, 1907, and is buried in Grove Hill cemetery.

BENTON T. WILKINS, late of Oil City, was known as the veteran train dispatcher and widely acquainted in railroad circles, with which he had been actively associated for forty-four years. His kindly nature and unvarying geniality of disposition had endeared him to many who came in frequent contact with him, and he was familiarly known as "Ben" to a legion of friends who mourned his passing sincerely.

Mr. Wilkins was born March 4, 1840, at Painesville, Ohio, and learned telegraphy in his youth. During the Civil war he was a member of the United States Signal Corps, in 1863-64, starting railroad work at Erie in 1865, on what was then the Buffalo & Erie road, now the eastern division of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern. In 1868 he went to Petroleum Center, Venango Co., Pa., some years later moving thence to Rouseville to take the position of trainmaster and dispatcher for the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which he filled with marked ability until his retirement, five years before his death. Prompt and faithful in the discharge of his responsibilities, he did his duty well and at the same time was duly solicitous in all the other obligations of life. He had a quiet, wholesome sense of humor which made him a welcome figure wherever he was known, and which contributed as much to his popularity as his more substantial qualities. He died of paralysis April 27, 1912, aged seventy-two years, at the home of his son-in-law, Charles L. Suhr, No. 505 West Third street, Oil City. Mr. Wilkins married Rebecca Brown, who died Aug. 28, 1904, and they are survived by three children: G. P. and Fred J., both residents of Rouseville; and Mrs. Charles L. Suhr, of Oil City.

FRED J. WILKINS was born in 1872 at Petroleum Center, Venango Co., Pa., and was reared and educated in Oil City. During his early manhood he followed railroad work for five years, eventually turning to his present line, the drilling of oil wells, in which he has done exceptionally well. He is now in the employ of the Rouseville Drilling Company. When the Spanish-American war broke out he enlisted, in May, 1898, in the United States service, serving as a member of the 16th Regiment under Colonel Hulings, and remaining in the army until the war closed. He saw service in Porto Rico. In 1906 he was united in marriage with Ella A. Tyler, daughter of Dr. Wm. C. Tyler, of Rouseville, where Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins also reside. They have two children, Anna V. and William Tyler.

The family are Methodists in religious association, and Mr. Wilkins is affiliated with the Royal Arcanum.

WALTER SIVERLY (deceased) was for many years one of the foremost citizens of Oil City, a leading spirit in public affairs and a man who met with substantial success in his business undertakings. The prosperity which attended his private enterprises was ample guarantee of his ability to participate effectively in those matters affecting the whole community, and he not only retained the confidence of his townsmen in all classes by his sincere efforts to place the administration of the local government on a practical business basis, but won also their appreciation and hearty goodwill. With his father he laid out and established that part of Oil City formerly known as the borough of Siverly, now the Tenth ward of the city, and from the beginning aided in its development along the most desirable lines, his influence having a permanent effect on its well-being.

The Siverlys are of Holland ancestry. Abram George Siverly, the first of the family in this region, was a native of New York City, born July 26, 1769, and his early ambition was to enter the medical profession, but his preceptor dying before he had completed his studies he abandoned them and became a sailor, following the sea for seven years, it is said with varying fortunes. He became a captain, and evidently improved his opportunities, for he could speak fourteen different languages and read and write seven. When he left the sea he located at New Fane, Windham Co., Vt., where he learned the trade of cabinet-maker, and there married Susanna Thayer on Oct. 7, 1793. He lived in Delaware county, N. Y., and at Olean, that State, before settling in Venango county, Pa., in 1819. His first location here was in Pinegrove township, whence in 1820 he removed to what afterward became the site of the borough of Siverly. The earliest survey of this site was made in 1802 by Samuel Dale, for Noah and Jesse Sage, upon improvement warrants, and the Sages each made a settlement there, planting two orchards, one below Siverly run and the other above it. These were the oldest orchards in this part of the county, and bore fruit as late as 1875. It was on the lower improvement, which had been abandoned for some time, that Abram George Siverly settled, living there until 1825, when the validity of his title having been successfully contested by a rival claimant he removed across the small

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stream forming the eastern boundary of Oil City and made another settlement on the site of the borough of Siverly. Here a survey was made in the name of his sons Philip H. and Milton T. Siverly, who built a house for him on the bank of the river, on ground later owned by the Imperial Refining Company. Mr. Siverly took a prominent part in local affairs, serving as justice of the peace and also as the first postmaster in the vicinity of the mouth of Oil creek, the office being known as Cornplanter in his day. In 1839 he removed West, settling in Iowa, in which State the remainder of his life was passed; he died near the town of Wapello, when about seventy years old.

Of the fourteen children born to Abram George and Susanna (Thayer) Siverly eight grew to maturity, and all are now deceased. Five lived to be over eighty, viz.: Philip Hart, who is mentioned below; Milton T., of Davenport, Iowa; Elhanan W., of Morning Sun, Iowa; Alzira Mary, Mrs. Witherspoon, of Siverly, Iowa; and Ann Dorothy, Mrs. Purdy, of Rockland township, Venango Co., Pennsylvania.

PHILIP HART SIVERLY, son of Abram George Siverly, was born in September, 1803, in New York City, and died in March, 1896, in Philadelphia, where he resided for a number of years before his death. In the early days he was a pilot on the Allegheny river, and was engaged in the lumber business in what is now Forest county, later locating at the site of Siverly, Venango county, where he purchased a tract of 118 acres in 1848 and followed farming for some years. In 1857 he sold a half interest in this property to his son Walter, and they laid out the village thereon in 1862. It grew steadily, and was incorporated as a borough Aug. 27, 1874. Philip H. Siverly was one of the most active and useful men of his day in this section. He served as justice of the peace of Cornplanter township, was a school director for many years, and took an active part in local politics, helping to establish the Republican party in his neighborhood. He lived at Siverly from 1848 to 1865.

While residing on Tionesta creek, Mr. Siverly married Mary Elderkin, daughter of Bela Elderkin, her family coming from England in 1637, and first settling at Lynn, Mass. She died in 1884, at the age of seventy-five years, the mother of six children, of whom we have the following record: Walter is mentioned below; Miss Emily resides at Siverly; Albert died when eleven months old; Caroline married J. W. McIntire, and both are deceased, her death occurring in October, 1916; Sarah Jane

is the wife of John W. Gardiner, mention of whom will be found elsewhere in this work; Hamilton S. died when eight years old.

Walter Siverly was born Jan. 29, 1832, at Newton, in what was then Venango (now Forest) county, Pa., and was reared in this section. He had such advantages for education as the common schools of the period afforded, and in his boyhood and youth assisted his father in farming and lumbering, later dealing in lumber for some years. In time he also acquired oil properties and became interested in the production of oil, about 1880 engaging in business as an oil broker, in which line he was conspicuously successful, being one of the familiar figures in the Oil City Oil Exchange for a number of years. But he will probably be best remembered for his skill as a mathematician, which won him international fame, though his knowledge of the science was mostly self acquired. In his early life he had learned surveying and followed the profession for a few years, and it was no doubt during this period that he acquired the taste for mathematical studies and research through which he eventually became one of the most proficient mathematicians of his day, his contributions on this subject to scientific papers in Europe as well as America relating to various problems and solutions in the realm of higher mathematics attracting the attention of its most learned devotees. In recognition of his acquirements in this field, and his contributions to the sum of its knowledge, he was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of philosophy, conferred May 31, 1888, by the board of trustees and faculty of the North Carolina College of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

When the borough of Siverly was incorporated, Aug. 27, 1874, Walter Siverly was appropriately chosen for its first burgess, and after serving a year in that office became a member of the council, with the exception of the year 1882 serving continuously from 1875 until 1886, and again in 1889. During all those years he gave the affairs of the borough the same earnest attention that he devoted to his own interests, and many of the most commendable measures adopted were due to his influence and cooperation. He was one of the most honored residents of Siverly until his death, which occurred at his home in that borough Sept. 30, 1901. He is buried in Grove Hill cemetery.

On Dec. 8, 1870, Mr. Siverly was married at Oregon, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., to Lucy Dimond, daughter of James H. and Harriet

(Fifield) Dimond, who survives him and continues to reside at No. 534 Colbert avenue, Oil City (formerly known as Siverly, now the Tenth ward of Oil City). Mr. and Mrs. Siverly had no children.

Mrs. Siverly also belongs to one of the most respected pioneer families of this region, her father, who was a native of New Hampshire, coming hither in 1833 and locating in what is now Pinegrove township, where he lived for some time. He removed thence to President and Eagle Rock, in President township, and later to Tionesta, finally settling in Kansas, where he died in 1887. His wife survived him until 1892. Mr. Dimond was a blacksmith by trade. His family consisted of six children, namely: Lucy, widow of Walter Siverly; Caroline Mary; George Henry; William Wallace; Eveline J., and Alice Genette.

ROBERT MOORE, of Oil City, now living retired, was for many years one of the leading dry goods merchants in Venango county, the department store of Moore & Stevenson (now carried on by Edwards Brothers) having long been one of the most prosperous and popular establishments of the kind in this part of the State. Though he began modestly, Mr. Moore soon developed marked ability in the line which he chose for his life work, and forged his way to a foremost place among local business men, not only for his personal success, but for the advanced ideas in merchandising which he introduced in Oil City, his house maintaining a reputation for up-to-date facilities and service which added considerably to the prestige of the city itself.

The Moore family is of Irish origin, long resident in County Down, where John Moore, the great-grandfather of Robert Moore, lived and died. His son Robert, the grandfather, was born in County Down, in the vicinity of Loughbrickland, in March, 1770, was a life-long farmer, and lived to the age of ninety-two years. He is buried with his wife Sarah (Pilson) at Loughbrickland, County Down. They were Presbyterians in religious belief. Of their three children George was the only one to reach maturity, both his sisters dying young.

George Moore, son of Robert and Sarah (Pilson) Moore, was born June 22, 1799, near Loughbrickland, County Down, Ireland, and died there Jan. 31, 1890. Like his father he farmed throughout his active years. His wife, Mary Jane (Shannon), born March 1, 1817, in an adjoining township in County Down, was a daughter of Robert and Essie (Murry) Shan-

non, granddaughter of John Shannon, and great-granddaughter of John Shannon, a native of the parish of Donaghmore, County Down, Ireland, born in the latter part of the seventeenth century. He was an extensive farmer and a prominent man of his locality, a warden of the Episcopal Church and succeeded in that office by his son, his present-day posterity and successors in the incumbency living at the same spot where he did and owning the same land. Robert Shannon, Mr. Moore's maternal grandfather, farmed there and lived to the age of about eighty-six years. He and his wife were Presbyterians, and are buried at the parish church at Loughbrickland. Politically he was a Conservative. By his marriage to Essie Murry, daughter of Thomas Murry, Robert Shannon had children as follows: James, John, Robert, William T., Alisha, Mary Jane (Mrs. George Moore), Sarah Ann and Essie (who died when a young girl). Mr. and Mrs. George Moore are also buried in the Presbyterian cemetery at Loughbrickland. They were Presbyterians, and he was a Conservative in politics. Of their four children, Mary Jane, born Dec. 10, 1838, is the widow of Samuel McSpadden and living on the old homestead in Ireland; Essie, born April 16, 1840, is deceased; Robert was the only son: Sarah Pilson, born March 26, 1845, died when three years old.

Robert Moore was born May 3, 1843, near Loughbrickland, County Down, Ireland, the birthplace of his ancestors for several generations. He was educated in his native country, his school attendance terminating with his studies in a school at Loughbrickland built by the Presbyterian denomination, and when fifteen years and six months old he accompanied his uncle William T. Shannon to America. They made the ocean voyage in the steamship "City of Baltimore," landed at New York and continued on to Pittsburgh, Pa., Mr. Moore remaining a few weeks in that city, where the uncle had a wholesale dry goods establishment. The boy's first employer in this country was S. W. Spencer, a retail dry goods merchant at Zanesville, Ohio, with whom he gained his first experience as a clerk, and he continued with him and his successor, William M. Black, for a period of five years. At the end of that time he came to Oil City, Pa., in 1865, and forming an association with W. E. Stevenson, under the name of Moore & Stevenson, conducted the first general store in the Third ward, doing business at a location on Main street for two and a half years. From that stand they removed to Center street, on the east side of the

city, occupying the block now used by the First National Bank, and later for five years having a store in the Drake block on Center street. They then went to their final location, Center, Elm and Sycamore streets, buying the building and remodeling it to suit their special needs, and it was known from that time as the Moore & Stevenson block. Meantime the growth of the trade kept demanding more and better facilities for handling it, and the firm changed and improved their accommodations and arrangements accordingly, the gradual evolution leading up to a modern department store, of which Oil City had just reason to be proud. The selling staff included twenty clerks, trained to give prompt, courteous attention to all patrons, whose appreciation was shown in the most substantial fashion. The partnership was only broken by the death of Mr. Stevenson, whose widow retained the interest for a time, eventually selling out to the present owners, Edwards Brothers, Incorporated, to whom Mr. Moore disposed of his share in 1914. Moore & Stevenson had their full share of the best local trade, and made every effort to prove themselves worthy of the confidence and patronage of their customers. In his personal relations with his fellow citizens Mr. Moore has likewise endeavored to merit the utmost respect, and his high standing among them is the result of a consistent adherence to upright principles. He is a Republican on political questions, but has not taken any direct part in public affairs.

By his marriage to Matilda E. Linn, of Zanesville, Ohio, daughter of James and Christine Ann (Corbes) Linn, Mr. Moore has had five children, namely: (1) Mary J. married Stanley Loomis, and both are deceased. Their only child, Robert M., is a member of the United States Aviation Corps and stationed at Fort Wayne, Detroit. (2) Ella Linn is the wife of David Evans, a broker of Pittsburgh. They have had one child, Alice, who is deceased. (3) Alice H. died when twenty-eight years old. (4) George William, born Oct. 23, 1876, is mentioned below. (5) Gertrude L. lives at home. Mr. Moore and his family are associated with the Second Presbyterian Church in Oil City. Their home is at No. 211 West First street, the beautiful residence being one of the most desirable in that part of the city.

GEORGE WILLIAM MOORE, son of Robert and Matilda E. (Linn) Moore, was born Oct. 23, 1876, at Oil City, and acquired his preparatory education in the public schools there. Graduating from high school in 1895, he entered

Amherst College that year and was graduated with all the honors of his class from that institution in 1899, after which he read law in the office of Trax and Parker, at Oil City. For two years he was at Waldron Ridge, Tenn., as manager of the wagon lumber works owned by Berry Brothers, of Oil City, was admitted to the bar in Venango county in 1902, and subsequently became a member of the law firm of Speer, Weigle & Moore. He was the first city solicitor of Oil City elected under the new commission form of government (1912), serving during the administration of Mayor Siggins; was a member of the staff of Col. G. C. Rickards, 16th Regiment, N. G. P., being quartermaster with the rank of captain; was a blue lodge Mason (raised a Mason in Tennessee); and held membership in the Second Presbyterian Church. Mr. Moore's untimely death occurred Jan. 27, 1914, and he is survived by his wife, Mary Alice (Young). He had attained a recognized place at the local bar, and his funeral was attended by the bench and bar in a body, all the judges being present—an unusual mark of respect. The following tribute from the pen of Prof. C. A. Babcock is worthy of repetition here:

In the death of George W. Moore Oil City sustains a loss it can ill afford. A young man identified in all its interests with his native town, and responding to her demands upon his time and loyalty, he will be greatly missed. Trained in our schools, and prepared for one of the foremost colleges, he reflected honor upon our institutions by his brilliant record. In scholarship he stood at the head, and he took the highest prizes given for oratory and for literary excellence. His eloquent talks at our school Alumni Association banquets are remembered as efforts which would have been marked at any gathering of educated people. At the beginning of a career as a lawyer, of fine judgment and devotion to duty, his death is one more illustration that death does indeed love a shining mark. It is one of the mysteries of this our life, which we must blindly accept until a clearer vision than earth provides has been given to us. To his wife, whose devotion to him was absolute, and to his father and mother and sisters, in their grief, this entire community offers sympathy, and has with them a sense of loss.

GEORGE C. MILLER, of Franklin, is one of that group of eminently capable men acting as executive heads of the Galena-Signal Oil Company. As one of the vice presidents of the company and member of the board of

directors, with the direction of manufacturing and purchasing in his special charge, he has had a definite part in the conduct of the immense plant now operated by the company, which has been an industrial asset of the highest value to the community. As an example of liberal progress in every direction, super-excellence of product, generous service to patrons, perfection in organization and fair dealings with employes, it is one of the representative institutions of which Franklin has reason to be proud, and Mr. Miller has contributed his full quota to the result. His share in the building up of this great business has been his principal interest since his arrival in Franklin in 1880, but he has also become allied with other leading enterprises, local and otherwise, at present holding the office of president in several and serving as a director of many more. The material affairs with which he keeps in touch stamp him as distinctly a man of large ideas, with the courage and executive qualities necessary for their realization.

Mr. Miller was born in 1857 at Concord, Erie Co., N. Y., son of Christian Miller, and is of old Huguenot stock. His first ancestor of whom we have record was born in Marckirch, in Upper Alsace, then a portion of France, and had children as follows: Nicklose (born in 1776), Martin, Michel (born in 1780), Christian and Elizabeth Ann. The three first named served in Napoleon's army. The other son, Christian, great-grandfather of George C. Miller, was born in 1782 in the village of Oberhoffen, canton of Bischweiler, Alsace, and lived there until 1852, when he came to America, where he died in 1868, at the age of eighty-six years. By calling he was a blacksmith. He married Elizabeth Schuster, and their children were: Christian, grandfather of George C. Miller; Martin, who lived to be over ninety-one years old; Nicklose, who married Marie Bender; Michael, who married Magdalena Heimlich; Elizabeth, who became the wife of George Schuster, and died at the age of ninety-one years; Magdalena, who married George Burgrph, and died in France; Margaret, who married Jacob Ketterer; and Salomae, wife of Philip Kline. All of this family died in America but Magdalena.

Christian Miller, son of Christian and Elizabeth (Schuster) Miller, learned his father's trade of blacksmith and followed it while in France. All his children were born in that country, and his first wife died there in 1851. Leaving Alsace on March 24, 1854, he arrived at Buffalo May 12th, and was soon established on a farm in Erie county, N. Y., near the vil-

lage of Boston, where he purchased 113 acres of land and followed agriculture the rest of his active life, reaching the good old age of eighty-seven years, three months. His death occurred in 1896, and he is buried at Boston, where several other members of the family are interred. His ten children were all born to the first marriage, with Magdalena Voeltzel, namely: Christian, father of George C. Miller; Martin, who died aged seventy-four years; Frederick, who died at the age of forty-nine years; Lewis, who died at the age of forty-five years; Michael, who is yet living in Erie county, N. Y.; Gen. Charles, of Franklin, Pa., whose biography appears elsewhere in this work; William, who is mentioned in the biography of his son, Charles A. Miller; George, who died in infancy; George, who died at sea in early life; and Magdalena, who married Edward Walash and lives in Buffalo, N. Y. The second marriage of Christian Miller, the father of this family, was to Magdalena Cobbett, a cousin of his first wife.

Christian Miller, son of Christian and Magdalena (Voeltzel) Miller, was born in Alsace, France, and there married Salomae Frantz, the young couple coming to America with his father in 1854. They first resided in Buffalo, N. Y., later removing to a location about twenty miles south of that city, in Erie county, where Mr. Miller followed farming until his death, which occurred when he was fifty-nine years old. He and his wife Salomae had the following children: William C., who married Carrie Knapp; George C.; Michel L., who married Julie Buffum; Louis L., who married Anna Roth; Fred, who married Agnes Ridell; and Louisa, who married H. K. Kobler.

George C. Miller was reared in Erie county, N. Y., where he began his education in the public schools. After taking a course in business college, at Buffalo, he found a position as a clerk at East Aurora, N. Y., with Millar & Peek, remaining a few years with that firm before coming to Franklin (Pa.) in 1880. Here he at once became associated with the concern now known as the Galena-Signal Oil Company, in the capacity of clerk, later taking a place in the shipping department, whence he was transferred to the position of assistant superintendent. As he gained in experience and familiarity with the details of the works he was advanced to superintendent and eventually to general superintendent, being so occupied until he assumed the vice presidency. As one of the three vice presidents of the Galena-Signal Oil Company he has charge of the manufacturing and purchasing, and he

takes proper pride in keeping his department fully up to the high standards maintained throughout the plant.

The Galena-Signal Oil Company has attained unusual ease of operation through carefully worked out organization, and Mr. Miller finds it possible to give prompt and entirely adequate attention to his duties without loss of time or neglect of the other interests which he has acquired. He is operating in oil on his own account, holding seven leases, one of them at the location where the historic Indian God Rock rests along the Allegheny river in this county. He is president of the Pennsy Coal Company of Franklin; of the firm of Kobler & Miller Co., of Buffalo; of the Economy Food & Products Company, of Boston, Mass.; of the Sibley Soap Company of Franklin; and of the People's Supply Company of Summerville and Clarion, Pa. Mr. Miller is a director of about twenty other concerns, including the First National Bank of Franklin, being one of the busiest men in this region. His office is in the Galena-Signal Company building in Franklin, his home in Miller Park, the attractive residence district of the city opened by General Miller. Socially he is well known, holding membership in the Franklin Club and the B. P. O. Elks.

By his marriage to Nellie Allen Mr. Miller had one daughter, Josephine Allen, who was married Nov. 14, 1917, to Boyd Nelson Park, Jr., and died in 1918.

MEYER BRAUNSCHWEIGER died at Oil City April 19, 1918, after a prosperous career as a merchant, in the course of which he attained high personal standing and the esteem of a large circle of associates. Besides attending diligently to his own affairs Mr. Braunschweiger has been one of the most effective workers in the city in the promotion of the public welfare, a citizen whose unqualified worth is conceded by all who know him.

Born Feb. 9, 1841, at Steinbach, Hinfeld, Germany, Mr. Braunschweiger was reared in the Old World, coming to America as a young man about fifty years ago. The voyage across the Atlantic, made in a sailing vessel, was an unpleasant experience of nearly three months' duration, during which they passed through a terrible storm, the vessel being in such danger that the passengers were told to take a drink, say their prayers and expect the worst. Incidentally it may be remarked that this was Mr. Braunschweiger's first drink of whiskey. He had served three years in the Prussian army and had learned the trade of capmaker

or furrier, at which he worked for three months after his arrival in New York City. He had two hundred dollars saved, and with this small capital joined his cousin, Meyer Braunschweiger, Jr., who was established in the clothing business at Rouseville, five miles from Oil City, Pa., the partnership lasting for several years. By way of distinction, Meyer Braunschweiger was known as "Yankee Braunschweiger" and Meyer Jr. as "Long Braunschweiger." The latter is now deceased. While associated in the clothing business with his cousin Meyer Braunschweiger became interested in the production of oil in the Bradford (McKean county) fields, his partner in that line being Kasper Kugler, still a resident of Oil City, and his connection with him in that business continued for a number of years. He was a charter member of the old Oil Exchange at Oil City. But he did not give up merchandising, always devoting the principal part of his time and attention to it, and as trade possibilities were constantly widening with the development of this section he and his cousin divided their interests, each opening a store of his own at Oil City. Mr. Braunschweiger did a thriving business until his retirement some fifteen years ago, having one of the most popular stores of the kind in or about Oil City, and he also continued to invest in promising oil properties, acquiring some valuable holdings which are still retained in the family. He owned the block now occupied by the Five and Ten Cent store, rebuilding it after the big fire of 1892, and later sold it for thirty thousand dollars, the first real estate transaction of such magnitude made in the city. Honest and upright in all his dealings with his fellow men, ready to support good movements and competent in his judgment on their value to the community, he was highly regarded by his townsmen and particularly by those who came in contact with him in the daily rounds of duty and social activities.

Mr. Braunschweiger always found his greatest pleasure in the domestic circle, and took pride and enjoyment in the home on the south side of Oil City, at No. 607 West Second street.

In New York Mr. Braunschweiger married Regina Sigel, a native of Saxony, Germany, who came to the United States in childhood, and died fifteen years ago. She was a charter member of the Council of Jewish Women, whose work is conducted along non-sectarian lines and is world-wide in its scope, and sympathized thoroughly with her husband in all

his interests. Of their five children, Samuel is now engaged as a clothing merchant at Johnstown, Pa.; Emanuel is in the shoe trade at Bradford, Pa.; Leopold has charge of the children's clothing department in Kaufmann Brothers store, the largest retail establishment in Pittsburgh; Ida is the wife of I. Theodore Weill, of Pittsburgh; Sarah lives at Oil City. All this family were educated in the Oil City schools. Mr. Braunschweiger was one of the founders of the Tree of Life Congregation, Orthodox, which erected the first synagogue at Oil City, and was always liberal in its support and active in its enterprises. He is buried in Mount Zion cemetery, at Franklin. His daughter, Miss Sarah Braunschweiger, has been indefatigable in philanthropic work. She is federation secretary of the Belle Lettres Club, the leading literary society of Oil City; chairman of the finance committee of the Venango County Children's Home; a member of the charity board of the Council of Jewish Women; a director of the Flower Mission; and a member of the Winifred Tonkin Guild. She was the first treasurer of the local Surgical Dressings Committee in Oil City at the outbreak of war between this country and the Central Powers, and is now busily engaged in Red Cross work.

GEORGE W. VAN VLIET, of Pleasantville, Venango county, has the distinction of being the oldest professional oil well shooter in the world. Now living retired after a career of thirty years in what is probably the most dangerous calling of industrial life, he is able to review a course rich in experiences, with the satisfaction of knowing that by the exercise of caution and good judgment he made an exceptional record. Ordinarily the life of a well shooter as such covers but six or seven years, yet Mr. Van Vliet followed the calling during the greater part of the period of oil production as now conducted, shooting thousands of wells without injuring anyone and never paying a dollar in damages for personal injury or destruction of property.

Born March 27, 1845, in Monroe county, Pa., Mr. Van Vliet came of Quaker pioneer ancestry. Gen. Joe Van Vliet of Revolutionary fame, from the Cumberland valley, was of the same stock. George W. Van Vliet entered upon his life work when but nineteen years old, shooting his first well on Oil creek, in Venango county, in 1864, with a four-pound charge of black powder in an iron shell sealed with wax, and let down into five hundred feet of water with a clothesline. His remunera-

tion was five hundred dollars—eloquent testimony of the danger attending the work. Powder was the explosive used for nearly three years, until the employment of nitroglycerin, which up to the present time has continued to be the most desirable and effective charge known. As the oil territory was extended by new discoveries demands for Mr. Van Vliet's services increased constantly, he and his trained employes receiving calls which kept them busy for the many years he remained in the business. Tireless observation and study made the composition and nature of nitroglycerin an open book to him, and with a full realization of its pent-up power he handled it with respectful care and avoided the disasters which usually attend its continued use. In the early years the ordinary compensation for placing and setting off a four-quart charge was one hundred dollars, but later this was reduced to one dollar a quart, the charge, however, generally consisting of seventy-five to one hundred quarts. In a few instances he used as much as three hundred quarts in a single charge. At times he compounded the explosive in small quantities, but the demands upon his time soon made this impossible and he bought from the DuPont Powder Company, who established a factory at Warren and supplied him at sixty cents a quart.

In 1865 a man named Roberts was granted a patent for the very process employed by Mr. Van Vliet, and sued the latter for infringement. The case was carried into the District court, before Federal Judge McCandless, but never came to trial. Mr. Van Vliet's priority of use being so well established that he was left to operate undisturbed in certain territory. At two different times his magazine was destroyed, with considerable loss to himself. After one of the DuPont employes delivered twenty-eight hundred pounds of nitroglycerin at the magazine an explosion ensued which destroyed two horses and a wagon as well as the magazine. A few remnants of garments were gathered up, a funeral was held at Salina, and a tombstone was even ordered by the supposed victim's brother, who later acknowledged that he had heard from his brother, the man having set the magazine off with a fuse in order to cover his disappearance, which he wanted to effect because of domestic troubles. He never returned. Another time Mr. Van Vliet had four tons delivered at his magazine, which was obliterated during the following night by a terrific explosion, traces being found of men who, it was afterward learned, had stolen a large part

of the stock and hauled it into Ohio. Only twice did Mr. Van Vliet have the experience of fire following the shooting of wells, caused by ignition of the escaping gases, with complete destruction of the derricks. A bluish flame, engendered by friction, and especially noticeable at night, issues from the wells after shooting, but of the thousands treated by him only these two contained sufficient heat to ignite the gases.

Mr. Van Vliet achieved an enviable reputation early in his career, and was frequently called upon to do work for the government, being sent to distant points as a skillful operator. For a few years Pithole was the center of his activities, but since 1867 he has lived at the nearby town of Pleasantville. After thirty years of active association with his chosen line of work he retired, but for ten years longer retained a financial interest in the business. For fifty years he has owned more or less interest in oil productions, frequently accepting a share in a well as pay for shooting it, and he has acquired enough to make him independent in his leisure years. Though he has never married he owns his own home at Pleasantville, occupying the old hotel erected in 1870 and closed at the expiration of the license. Possessing keen enjoyment of the excitement of good sport, Mr. Van Vliet for many years indulged his taste for speedy horses and racing, himself owning track horses and frequently appearing at the courses on the circuit from Detroit to New Orleans. In the old days newly opened oil territories, often the resort of speculators with no desire for permanent investment, and with their get-rich-quick allurements, attracted the throngs of gamblers and similar characters usually present under such circumstances to reap their share of the wealth as it came in, and Mr. Van Vliet recalls the time when poker was played in the oil fields for stakes as high as any which characterized the game on the famous old Mississippi steamboats. His interesting recollections include a keen memory of the first pipe line leading from Pithole to a refinery at Miller Farm, on Oil creek, some seven miles distant, and of the two plank roads that previously had served as an outlet for the oil from Pithole, each having a double roadway, and traversed constantly by hundreds of wagons before the construction of the pipe line, which did away entirely with the hauling of oil. He had personal acquaintance with every important oil man of the palmy days at Pithole, Shamburg and Petroleum Center, and was one of the guests at the banquet given at the "Morey

Farm Hotel," Pithole (then a mushroom town of ten thousand population), by the owners of the railroad extending from Reno to Pithole to one of the renowned firm of Rothschilds, by way of interesting him in the purchase of the road. Two hundred guests were present, negro waiters were brought in for the occasion, rare wines were served in abundance, and speeches were made by orators of national fame, including the gifted Galusha A. Grow. General Burnside was one of the guests.

Mr. Van Vliet was one of the best known figures in the oil fields for several decades. With absolute mastery of every detail relating to his own occupation, and ideals of business and personal obligation to which he adhered tenaciously, he was considered an absolutely reliable man to deal with. His mental acquisitions and outlook broadened constantly in a life of unusual variety, and he has a wide fund of general information which makes him an interesting companion, while his courtesy gains him the friendly esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

HUGH C. DORWORTH, of Oil City, general counsel for the Standard Oil interests at that point, has advanced to a strong position in the legal fraternity on the merits of his professional achievements. The importance of the affairs intrusted to him is positive indorsement of his familiarity with the law and judgment in its application by those best qualified to estimate his attainments. His law library is one of the finest private collections of legal works in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Dorworth is a Venango county man, born Feb. 1, 1873, at Oil City. His grandfather, Jonathan Dorworth, came to his section in 1834, from Emaus, Lehigh Co., Pa., and settled in Richland township, on north Richey run, near his wife's parents, Philip and Magdalena Knauss, the two families likely emigrating together. Mr. and Mrs. Knauss passed the rest of their lives in that township, where his death occurred in 1869, when he was aged eighty-three years. Their sons, one of whom was Samuel, reared families, but none of the name are now residing in the county. They are one of the oldest families in Pennsylvania, Sebastian Knauss, the emigrant ancestor in this country, having been one of a colony which came from the Rhine Palatinate under the auspices of the Penns, about 1723. The First Moravian Church in Pennsylvania was built on his property in 1742, a tablet marking the site. His old home, built in 1777, still stands

in a good state of preservation and is now owned and occupied by a direct descendant.

Jonathan Dorworth cleared out a farm on Richey run and passed many of his active years in its cultivation, leaving it in 1866 to settle in Oil City, where he was subsequently engaged as a building contractor until his death, in 1873, at the age of seventy-three years. His youngest son to reach maturity was James L. Dorworth, who lost his life in the historic disaster of 1892 at Oil City, when but forty-five years old. He was a talented professional man, an educator and lawyer who had done noteworthy work in Venango county, and his untimely death was regarded as a great loss to the community. He had prepared for teaching at the Edinboro (Pa.) Normal School, and taught at various points in Venango county, including Oil City, before entering upon the practice of law, which he followed from 1884. His wife, Alice Grey (Thompson), of Clarion county, Pa., survives. There were three sons in their family of seven children, Hugh C., Charles F. and James Winfield. Charles F. Dorworth is an engineer, now in the West; James Winfield is a practicing physician in Oil City.

Hugh C. Dorworth was reared at Oil City and acquired his preparatory education in the public schools, graduating from the high school in 1888. He entered Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pa., the same year, graduating from that institution in 1892, and thus equipped for the serious duties of life, carried on the study of law with his other responsibilities during the next few years, gaining admission to the bar in 1898. Meantime he had a practical experience in the field with the Ohio Oil Company, learning the details of oil production by

actual contact, acquiring a first-hand knowledge of the business which has been of incalculable value to him in handling its legal problems. Mr. Dorworth began general practice twenty years ago, and there is every indication that he will realize the full promise of his early years. From 1903 to 1908 he was in partnership with William H. Weigle. He has had the confidence of the substantial element in Oil City throughout his career, and has been conscientious in his efforts to deserve it. He has continued to read law indefatigably, making judicious use of the fine library which he has gathered, works hard in dispatching the business of every case turned over to him, and has a reputation for attention to detail that speaks well for his watchfulness and provident thought for the rights of his clients. A clear thinker, logical in deduction and forceful in presenting his causes with convincing arguments, he is a dependable advocate in the court-room as well as in counsel, and his admirable self-control holds the respect of all who know him, even his opponents. The appointment which Mr. Dorworth has held for the last ten years, that of general counselor for the Standard Oil interests at Oil City, is sufficient comment on his professional ability. His special work concerns the pipe lines in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky. In 1906-07-08 he was county solicitor, but he has not taken any other direct part in public affairs. He is a Republican on political questions.

On April 27, 1898, Mr. Dorworth married Margaret Ann Dougherty, of Oil City, daughter of William and Mary Dougherty, her father now living retired. Six children have been born to this marriage: James L., Mary, Alice G., Wilhelmina, Helen Louise and John D.



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